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24 October 1984

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Nicaragua Seeks Increased Mexican Aid for Fishing Industry (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 14 Sep 84)	1
Mexican Official Guarantees Oil Supply to Nicaragua (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 18 Sep 84)	2

ARGENTINA

Solutions To Help Service Foreign Debt Outlined (Adolfo Edgardo Buscaglia; SOMOS, 31 Aug 84)	4
Labor Leader Triaca on Socioeconomic Pact With Government (Jorge Triaca Interview; MERCADO, 13 Sep 84)	6

BRAZIL

USSR Delegation To Attempt To Resolve Trade Imbalance (Chico Dias; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 26 Sep 84)	9
Proposed 1985 Budget, Increase in State Allocations Viewed (VISAO; 17 Sep 84)	11
Sao Paulo Government To Promote New High-Tech Industries (FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 13 Sep 84)	13
Volkswagen To Establish Factory in Iraq (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 9 Sep 84)	15
Briefs Nigerian Rubber Imports	17

CHILE

President of New Opposition Party Explains Humanist Position (Jose Tomas Saenz Interview; HOY, 17 Sep 84)	18
--	----

Briefs		
Submarine 'Simpson' Joins Fleet		23
CUBA		
Antigua Seen Playing Role in U.S. 'Domination' of Region (Alberto Rabilotta; GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, 16 Sep 84)		24
UJC Signs Agreement With Polish Youth Groups (JUVENTUD REBELDE, 4 Sep 84)		26
Underground Shelters, Civil Defense System Praised (BOHEMIA, No 33, 17 Aug 84)		28
Local Fishermen Report on Continuing Lobster Thievery (GRANMA, 23 Aug 84)		31
Traffic Accidents Up for First Half of 1984 (GRANMA, 6, 28 Aug 84)		34
Carelessness, Drunkenness To Blame Journalist Killed in Accident		
Briefs		
Caribbean Intellectuals' Meeting		36
DOMINICA		
New Manufacturers Group in Dispute With DAIC (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 27 Sep 84)		37
EL SALVADOR		
New PCN Secretary General, Executive Committee Elected (LA PRENSA GRAFICA, 3 Sep 84)		39
Army Command Changes in Chalatenango, Cabanas Announced (EL MUNDO, 4 Sep 84)		40
MEXICO		
State of Mexico: PAN Threat to PRI Seen in 12 Districts (Guillermo C. Zetina; EXCELSIOR, 16 Aug 84)		41
State of Mexico: PAN Municipal, State Congress Candidates (Humberto Aranda; EXCELSIOR, 13 Sep 84)		44
State of Mexico Electoral Alliance of Left Spelled Out (ASI ES, No 119, 14 Sep 84)		45
PAN Officials See Inconsistencies in PRI Accusations (Jesus Gonzalez Schmal, Bernardo Batiz Interview; LA NACION, 15 Sep 84)		48

2 December Given as Date for State of Mexico Election (EXCELSIOR, 17 Sep 84)	56
Coahuila Candidates Leave PRI for Ranks of PARM (Guillermo C. Zetina; EXCELSIOR, 22 Sep 84)	58
Madero Predicts PAN Gubernatorial Victory With Rosas in Sonora (Guillermo C. Zetina; EXCELSIOR, 23 Sep 84)	59
Expropriation of Lopez Portillo Family Properties Sought (EXCELSIOR, 31 Aug 84)	61
Briefs	
Puebla: PSUM Members Murdered	62

Nicaragua

Slaughterhouses Said To Operate at 50-Percent Capacity (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 7 Sep 84)	63
Bilingual Education Project for Atlantic Coast Announced (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 10 Sep 84)	66
Students Mobilized for Coffee, Cotton Harvests (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 11 Sep 84)	69
Managuans' Insulation From War Noted (Editorial; EL NUEVO DIARIO, 12 Sep 84)	71
Briefs	
Bakers' Union Contract	73
African Palm Project	73

Peru

Political Programs of Parties Contrasted (PERU ECONOMICO, Sep 84)	74
--	----

Trinidad and Tobago

Government, JNT Remain at Loggerheads in Wage Negotiations (THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 11 Sep 84; SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 23 Sep 84)	78
Chambers on 'Mob Rule'	
Charge Against JNT	
Government Statement	
Sarjeant Report Urges More Active Role for PNM Unit (EXPRESS, 13 Sep 84)	85

Both Imports, Exports Involving CARICOM Show Decline (EXPRESS, 12 Sep 84)	86
Chambers Disclaims Responsibility for Shortages (EXPRESS, 10 Sep 84)	87
Rice Farmers Rap Debt-Payment Deal With Guyana (Harry Partap; EXPRESS, 12 Sep 84)	89
Government Plans To Make Country Citrus Exporter Again (EXPRESS, 5 Sep 84)	90
Weekes, in Final Address, Looks at Oil Workers' Issues (EXPRESS, 10 Sep 84)	92
Preparations for PNM Convention in Tobago Reported (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, various dates)	94
Donaldson on Disruptions Preconvention Atmosphere, by Clevon Raphael Robinson on THA Funding Rumors of PNM Shifts, by Clevon Raphael	
Tapia House Says NAR Leadership Needs To Be Resolved (EXPRESS, 17, 18 Sep 84)	97
Call for Talks Need for 'Urgency', by Gregory Shaw	
Union Wage Demands Draw Fire From Press (Various sources, 16, 28 Sep 84)	99
Government's Responsibility, Editorial Attack on JNT, 'Work-to-Rule' Comment on Blackman Views, Editorial	
President Scores Inadequate Government Consultation (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 26 Sep 84)	104
National Debt Now at Record \$2.8 Billion (SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 16 Sep 84)	105
Three Foreign Firms Submit Proposals for ISCOTT (George Harvey; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 27 Sep 84)	107
Farmers' Concerns in Marketing, Land Tenure Addressed (EXPRESS, 17, 18 Sep 84)	108
Call for Co-op Government Planning Deficiency	

Telco Negotiates \$70-Million Loan From Japan (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 29 Sep 84)	110
---	-----

Briefs

Manning on Crude Production	111
Sugar, Cocoa, Coffee Output	111

VENEZUELA

Petrochemical Industry Shows Signs of Recovery (EL UNIVERSAL, 7 Sep 84)	112
Energy Minister, PDVSA Officials Discuss Oil Revenue Increase (EL UNIVERSAL, 7 Sep 84)	114

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA SEEKS INCREASED MEXICAN AID FOR FISHING INDUSTRY

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Sep 84 p 5

[Text] Mexico City--Nicaraguan Fishery Minister Alfredo Alaniz stated here that Nicaragua received technical assistance and a credit of \$7.5 million from Mexico for the purchase of two vessels, and the equipping and financing for the Nicaraguan fishing fleet.

Alaniz, who is in this capital to participate in a feasibility study for an additional \$7.5 million Mexican credit for his country to purchase 20 fishing boats, expressed gratitude for the valuable technical and financial aid of Mexico and emphasized that it has been most extensive.

"We also came here to invite Mexico to attend the SELA [Latin American Economic System] congress on fishery to be held in Managua from 29 October to 2 November," he underscored.

Alaniz categorically denied that Nicaraguan fishing boats take away Mexico's ocean riches, and stated that "our fleet can barely fish Nicaraguan territorial waters."

The official estimated that Latin America is one of the world's richest regions in fishing resources, but he noted that only 20 percent of the production is consumed in the area, while the remaining 80 percent is exported.

Rise in Consumption

The annual per capita consumption of fish in Latin America is 3 kilograms, while some nations, like the Nordic countries, consume up to 30 kilograms, and Japan much more still, he stressed.

Alaniz said that Latin American countries are currently looking for programs to bring seafood to the population and attain an increase in consumption that could reach 10 to 12 kilograms per capita within a term of 15 years, in order to take advantage of the big fishing resources of the continent.

The Nicaraguan minister ended by pointing out that Latin American countries attending the SELA meeting in Managua will seek to benefit from the advanced fishing technology attained by Mexico, Cuba and Chile.

MEXICAN OFFICIAL GUARANTEES OIL SUPPLY TO NICARAGUA

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Sep 84 p 5

[Text] "Considering the limitations and the problems of the foreign debt, Nicaragua is an example of development and economic growth among all the countries of Latin America," Luis Macias, charge d'affairs and technical cooperation of the Mexican Embassy in Managua, asserted to EL NUEVO DIARIO.

Macias, who has resided in our country for more than 2 years, stressed that while most Latin American countries have declined or remained stagnant, Nicaragua had a growth of more than 5 percent in 1983.

The Mexican diplomat added that it is true there are problems in the country at present, but he highlighted the investments that the revolutionary government is making in development projects.

As to the actual supply problems, Macias said that "the efforts made by the government to improve distribution are commendable."

With regard to trade relations between Mexico and Nicaragua, he pointed out that "the limitations of foreign exchange have not been an obstacle to their development inasmuch as a very viable formula was found for the dealings--bartering."

He also underscored Mexico's technical cooperation with Nicaragua through the CARN-SELA [Action Committee for the Reconstruction of Nicaragua-Latin American Economic System] and directly. More than 700 technicians in the fields of health, education and engineering have been placed by Mexico at the disposal of the government and the people of Nicaragua.

He also said that two Mexican private enterprises are engaged in important projects in the country. One in the construction of bridges on the road to Puerto Cabezas, and the other in the building of the Asturias dam, which is a project of the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy].

Asked about the supply of Mexican petroleum to our country, Macias showed us an embassy press release in which he states that it is true there have been mutually-agreed modifications in the supply, but Mexico fulfills its obligation when Nicaragua demands the product. There is no political factor involved in this.

The news release avers that Mexico is not aware of supplies and prices furnished by other countries to Nicaragua, which has every right to make such contracts.

The release quotes Maj Daniel Ortega S., coordinator of the JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction], who in a speech in the city of Leon stated "that Mexico complies with its commitments to supply petroleum to Nicaragua, though the latter has also received aid from Iran and the Soviet Union."

Finally, the release says that Mexico faithfully adheres to the San Jose agreement without interposing any conditions of a political nature.

8414

CSO: 3248/4

SOLUTIONS TO HELP SERVICE FOREIGN DEBT OUTLINED

Buenos Aires SCAMOS in Spanish 31 Aug 84 p 64

[Article by Adolfo Edgardo Buscaglia: "The Only Possible Path"]

[Text] We Argentines should be concerned, with justified cause, I believe, over the upward trend in interest rates on the international financial market. With a foreign debt of \$43 billion, two thirds of which has been assumed by the state (in other words, by us taxpayers), each percentage unit of interest represents \$430 million of higher costs if interest rates rise, and of lesser disbursements if they decline.

The current interest rates are fluctuating around 13 percent per year. If we consider that portion of the debt assumed years ago, over the long term and at a fixed interest rate lower than the present one, it is likely that the average rate that our foreign debt is accruing comes close to 11 percent per year. If so, the debt would be costing us nearly \$4.5 billion in annual interest, a figure representing 50 percent of our annual exports which is reducing to the same extent our capacity for importing raw materials and production equipment required for the country's economic development. To understand the effect of this interest, one need only say that it is probably equivalent to 12 percent of the annual product of our entire productive activity and to over half of all the internal savings.

This situation indicates that Argentina has only one possible path: to intensify its economic growth through a forceful policy of promoting exports so as to provide itself with foreign exchange, and to foster a vigorous restoration of productivity and austerity, both in public spending and private consumption. Dealing with the foreign debt and its interest requires a significant, steady increment, for several years, in the rate of savings and the rate of exporting in the gross domestic product. This is all we can do; but we must undertake the task, because in any event it will be necessary to honor the legitimately contracted debt and pay its pertinent interest.

The belief that our country can, per se, repudiate that debt or unilaterally set the interest that it wants to pay is truly naive. It can, indeed, negotiate a reprogramming of the debt over the longer term, geared to the country's capacity to pay, as well as the margins and commissions that the creditor

banks charge on the interest rates that they pay to their depositors. Our concern over the high real interest rates in effect is shared by all the debtors in the world; that is, by the governments and business firms of the most industrialized nations of the East and West which, combined, are the major debtors, as well as by the governments and business firms of the developing countries, among which we are included. The world economy is emerging from a severe depression which is still evident in high unemployment rates. The high real interest rates were not unrelated to that situation. The world depression of 1980-82 was caused not only by the renewed high price of oil, but also by the precipitous rise in interest rates. The latter increased from the level of 10-11 percent per year in 1978-79 to amounts of from 15 to 20 percent per year in 1980-81, triggering the world recession. Then they declined from 16 to 10 percent in 1982 and 1983 owing to the crisis. As soon as an incipient world economic recovery started to appear in 1983 and 1984, interest rates began rising again. Many may wonder why the governments of the more industrialized countries have not coordinated their action to moderate this progress in interest, when they are the leading debtors. The answer must seem surprising. The upward trend in interest rates is due precisely to the excessive demand for loans by the governments to cover their structural budgetary imbalances.

Public spending has expanded rapidly in the main industrialized countries, constricting the private productive sector with higher taxes and rising interest rates. The interest increases owing to the excessive pressure from the governments on the financial markets to attract private savings with which to finance their budget deficits. Between 1960 and 1983, the effect of public spending on the gross domestic product increased from 30 to 57 percent in Italy, from 34 to 54 percent in France, from 32 to 49 percent in the United Kingdom, from 29 to 48 percent in Canada, from 28 to 39 percent in the United States of America and from 22 to 38 percent in Japan; while in Argentina it increased from 30 to 50 percent. The public debt of all these countries increased accordingly.

Most of those countries, except for the United States and Argentina, have initiated strict economic adjustment programs already, to reverse that trend toward socialization of their economies. The current upward tendency of interest rates on the world market is due precisely to the enormous pressure from the federal government of the United States to attract private savings all over the world so as to finance its gigantic budget deficit and its large deficit in the balance of payments abroad. If this pressure should continue persistently, the world economic depression could last to an unpredictable extent.

In view of this situation, we must make our own decisions: paving the way for our economic growth through a strong impetus to exports, savings and internal investment, and confronting the payment of our foreign debt in an orderly fashion.

2909

CSO: 3348/4

LABOR LEADER TRIACA ON SOCIOECONOMIC PACT WITH GOVERNMENT

Buenos Aires MERCADO in Spanish 13 Sep 84 p 26

[Interview with labor leader Jorge Triaca; date and location not specified]

[Text] Jorge Triaca is from the plastic workers' union, and currently serves as one of the secretaries general of the unified CGT [General Confederation of Labor]. We offer his responses to MERCADO as follows:

MERCADO: What are the effects of the 3 September strike on relations with the government?

Triaca: The effects have occurred on four levels:

- a. On the government, where deepseated contradictions have cropped up that were known to all of us except the state news media. On the one hand, there are the official sectors which cannot overcome their party consciousness (and, I might add, that of a minority party), and which as a result cannot visualize politics other than the permanent electoral campaign, nor a method other than confrontation. On the other, there are those who have absorbed the shock of their own victory and are trying to think "like a government," and not like a "party," gradually discovering politics as an area of national compromise and reaching agreement as a method.
- b. On CGT, it has been made clear that it retains its historic capacity for convoking the sectors associated with production, and that, in view of the unilateral control of the news media by the state, the tertiary sectors have not responded in the same way. Moreover, we have confirmed what we have repeated so often: Immediate trade union normalization is essential.
- c. On the essence of the relations, it has been made clear that CGT states the issue correctly: What is involved here is changing this policy based on "accounting" criteria into an economic policy based on productive criteria.
- d. Finally, I think that despite the official "hotheads," the government will join its desire for agreement to ours. I expect that, in the future, this responsible tendency to seek, through agreement, a political rationality for this economic situation lacking in rationality will become consolidated.

MERCADO: How does the unified CGT consider the strike and its effects in relation to the respect for the agencies that comprise the trade union movement?

Triaca: CGT is the only institutional agency which comprises the Argentine trade union movement. The significance of the other groups cited in the question is different in nature. Consequently, the strike and its effects have confirmed CGT's position, both from the standpoint of costs and that of gains.

MERCADO: The government has maintained that the leaders who declared the strike lack representative status, because their positions have not been confirmed by elections. On the other hand, the opposition to their mandate in the northern section of Greater Buenos Aires, claims that the absenteeism on the day of the strike was minimal. What is your assessment of these assertions?

Triaca: In connection with the first, the government sectors which claim this contradict themselves, as in so many matters; because while they deny representative status to those of us who have won elections, quite often (although the process has banned us from convoking them for years), on the other hand they attempt to acknowledge it for "boards" and "groups" that have never won an election.

In connection with the next issue, I would say only two things: a. My union had one of the highest rates of adherence to the strike in the entire country, including the northern section of Greater Buenos Aires; something that has been recorded by us, by the press and even by the ministry; b. with regard to what the question terms "the opposition to my mandate," it is no longer worthwhile evaluating. My union is now at the height of an electoral process, in which they may participate, subjecting themselves, as I and my fellow commission members do, to the decision of the rank and file. They have all the democratic guarantees, to the point where, so that it will not be suspected that, owing to my status as secretary general of CGT, I have more access to the ministry, we have opted for the judicial inspector of the election. I am going to win, and we can continue to discuss this issue later.

MERCADO: Do you think that a convergence of the unified CGT with the government's economic programs is possible in the immediate future? If not, what will the dynamics of the social and economic dispute that you foresee be?

Triaca: It is possible, but not with this economic program. If the government changes it in a democratic direction, integrating into a basic consensus the interest of all the productive sectors, convergence will be possible with everyone, even CGT. If this were the case, what you call "the social and economic dispute" would have a different development. In the first place, as a prerequisite, the policy on income should guarantee the worker a wage level that will enable him to live in dignity; he must be guaranteed the lifeline. Starting there, we shall progress realistically toward the reconquest of the levels of justice. Given that condition, the mechanism for the

properly institutionalized economic and social agreement will have to be proposed as follows: a. how to increase production; b. how to make a better distribution among productive factors, sectors and regions; c. how to ensure the national decision regarding economic policy; d. how to optimize the use of our natural resources; and, e. how to stimulate scientific and technical development.

MERCADO: The unified CGT has claimed, through many of its leaders, that the government's economic plans have been derived from its agreement with the IMF. If one agrees that this is so, what alternative policy do you propose in connection with the IMF?

Triaca: What CGT has cited is the susceptibility of the Palace of Finance to external pressure, whether it be from the IMF, the Paris Club or the private banks. But it could hardly be said that the government's "plans" have been derived from the "agreement" with the Fund, inasmuch as we have stated to the point of becoming hoarse that the government (strictly speaking) has no plans and, insofar as we know, has no agreement with the IMF either. Our proposal is that there be set up a concerted, serious, reliable plan that is clearly aimed at the reactivation of national production, solidly backed by a national consensus and responsibly executed by the government. To confront the negotiations with the Fund in that new situation would completely change the tone and fate of the negotiations.

2909

CSO: 3348/4

USSR DELEGATION TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE TRADE IMBALANCE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Sep 84 p 23

[Article by Chico Dias, special correspondent]

[Text] New York--In October a high-level Soviet trade mission will be in Brazil to try to bring trade between the two countries into balance, as it is currently heavily weighted toward a Brazilian surplus.

This information was given yesterday by [Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister] Saraiva Guerreiro after meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Andrei Gromyko at the headquarters of the USSR mission to the United Nations, in New York, for a review of bilateral relations between Brazil and the USSR.

The current situation of the trade balance between the two countries and its large Brazilian surplus (\$800 million) was one of the high points of the conversation between the two foreign ministers.

After the meeting, Saraiva Guerreiro explained that the imbalance is normal, but it is clear that, as the Soviet trade is administered, it tends to buy less from countries that do not buy from the USSR.

"But we have made, in the meetings of the joint commissions and on the occasion of several other meetings with trade missions, an exploration of the prospects of purchasing Soviet products. That is what is going to happen with this mission that is to arrive in October."

According to the foreign minister, Brazil is interested in increasing the current level of trade with the Soviet Union, but he made one reservation:

"Of course, we are going to buy only what appeals to us. But it is necessary to identify these products and considerable work has been done by the technical bodies and in the meetings of the joint commissions about these possibilities. But this is a dynamic movement of exchanges and I believe that this year, there having been a decrease in the volume of trade, we must make an effort to recover the dynamism of that trade."

Another point discussed during the meeting of the two foreign ministers was the current level of diplomatic relations between Brazil and the Soviet Union, which

the Soviet diplomats consider characterized by coolness on the part of Brazil, which treats other socialist countries with which it has relations differently.

According to Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro, the problem was not approached from this standpoint, that is, one of greater rapprochement between the two countries.

8834

CSO: 3342/8

PROPOSED 1985 BUDGET, INCREASE IN STATE ALLOCATIONS VIEWED

Sao Paulo VISA0 in Portuguese 17 Sep 84 pp 25-27

[Text] The future president of the republic will have, in the federal budget for the next fiscal year--already submitted by President Joao Figueiredo to the National Congress for approval--a powerful instrument of political action, represented in his right to distribute, with a great deal of discretion, more than 88 trillion cruzeiros. The so-called social budget, which covers appropriations for the social area, is the biggest of all time, amounting to 18.2 trillion cruzeiros, 7.8 trillion cruzeiros of which are allocated to the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Under his direct control, the president will have almost 11 trillion cruzeiros (2 and 1/2 times the budget of the state of Sao Paulo) of the so-called "contingency reserve," which is used by Planalto Palace for financing special projects and meeting the needs of climatic calamities. The sole and exclusive master of the allocation of these funds is the president of the republic, who is not obligated to follow any criterion in spending it except what he himself establishes.

All the states, municipalities and the federal district together will receive an amount of money that is less than twice that amount--about 19.4 trillion cruzeiros--through the special funds (Participation Fund of the States and Participation Fund of the Municipalities), an allocation that represents a nominal increase of 210 percent in relation to the previous year, or almost 13 trillion cruzeiros additional, compared with the 6.7 trillion cruzeiros to be distributed to these entities by the end of this year. These funds represent 23.5 percent of all National Treasury revenues expected for the next year.

More Funds

This increase of funds allocated to the states and municipalities does not result from an act of generosity by the federal government--it is the fruit of the performance of the states themselves and their representatives in the National Congress. Contrary to the designs of Planalto Palace, they approved constitutional amendments 17/80 and 23/83 (Passos Porto Amendment), which altered the percentages used in computing the funds, which accounted for the transfers of the next year being raised by more than 300 percent.

1985 Budget (in billions of cruzeiros)

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Legislative	395.9
Judiciary	351.4
Planning and Administration	10,426.5
Agriculture	2,893.5
Communications	587.6
National Defense and Public Safety	4,986.8
Regional Development	16,347.0
Education and Culture	7,826.8
Energy and Mineral Resources	3,619.5
Housing and Urban Development	560.8
Industry, Commerce and Services	751.2
Foreign Relations	685.2
Health and Sanitation	2,217.2
Labor	224.3
Welfare and Social Security	7,417.4
Transportation	11,903.3
Contingency Reserve	10,921.9
TOTAL	82,316.3

The political importance of this fact, as analyzed by political leaders in Congress, is that next year the governors will be less subject to pressure from the federal government, as they will be guaranteed by the constitution a much greater flow of funds, which are automatically entered in their accounts in the Bank of Brazil upon collection of the Income Tax and the Tax on Industrialized Products, where the funds originate. Thus, if the candidate of the government party is chosen by the Electoral College in the 15 January elections, the opposition governors and those of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] who do not support their candidate will have less fear of being discriminated against by Brasilia.

Reward or Punish

Of course, the federal government will still be able to "boycott" state projects that depend upon federal funds and allocate a greater amount of funds from the budget to the states of Planalto Palace's political preference. In this sense, the 1985 federal budget gives the federal government more room for action, in increasing the amount of money appropriated to executing works in the various areas of administration through agreements with the state governments. The Health Ministry, for example, has over 2 trillion cruzeiros to spend and the largest allocation is for regional development, which will consume 16.3 trillion cruzeiros. When discriminating against states, the agreements are signed, the funds are promised, but the money never comes, or arrives so late that the program cannot be accomplished.

The present government will be in office for 2 and 1/2 months with the 1985 budget --from 1 January, when the fiscal year begins, until 15 March, when the transfer of power is to take place--which means that it will have great power to reward with funds the states whose governors respond to the appeals of Planalto Palace or to punish, by withholding them, those that do not heed it.

SAO PAULO GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE NEW HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Sep 84 p 13

[Text] The Sao Paulo government will stimulate emergence of new high-technology Brazilian companies or those using industrial processes that are innovative for the country, it was announced yesterday by the secretary of industry and commerce, Einar Kok. This support will be given through creation of Development Centers for Emerging Industries, a project shared by several companies--which generally require more talent than large investments--so that the installation costs of the units can be cheaper. The first center is to be announced within 60 days and could be in Campinas, Sao Carlos or Sao Joao dos Campos.

The project emerged from the findings of the Company for Promotion of Scientific Research (PROMOCET), attached to the secretariat, to the effect that there are many innovations, mainly in universities and research centers, that for lack of funds for setting up a small business are not put into practice, while the country goes on importing similar products. Moreover, the centers will permit small industries using advanced technology that currently function informally in homes to legalize their status.

Based upon this situation, PROMOCET eventually listed 57 technological products that could be made here, emphasizing the fields of electronics, informatics, biotechnology, foods, river transportation and energy. It was also learned that there are five technology-generating centers in the state that grew spontaneously around universities and research centers. These poles are Campinas, with emphasis on product and process engineering; Sao Carlos, emerging in process engineering; Piracicaba, with development of agronomics and sugarcane agroindustry; Sao Jose dos Campos, oriented mainly toward machinery and aerospace industries; and the city of Sao Paulo, which combines all these characteristics as well as services technology.

Shared Structure

The basic idea of the development centers is that PROMOCET build sheds of 1,000 square meters. This space would be divided into 8 modules, each of 50 square meters, where a company would be installed. After the sheds were ready, expenditures for security, cleaning, telephone, dispensary and other services would be divided among the nine companies, which would cut these costs in half.



Geographic Location of Technological Poles in State of Sao Paulo
(Source: Policy Administration Division of the State of Sao Paulo)

The estimated cost of each shed is 20,000 ORTNs [Indexed National Treasury Bonds] (about 323 million cruzeiros) and the plan of the Secretariat of Industry and Commerce is to begin construction of the first at the end of this year, so that it is ready in the first half of next year. Later in 1985 it is intended to establish two more of these centers, which would bring the total investment to over 1 billion cruzeiros. For this purpose the secretariat intends to increase the Science and Technology Fund from 2 billion cruzeiros this year to 10 billion cruzeiros in 1985.

Secretary Einar Kok and the director-president of PROMOCET, Saul D'Avila, pointed out that this support to emerging industries is not paternalistic, because the services will be paid for by the companies, in addition to the fact that there are no subsidies. Another important point is that the companies will remain in these centers for 3 years, considered a sufficient length of time for them to have built their own facilities.

8834

CSO: 3342/8

VOLKSWAGEN TO ESTABLISH FACTORY IN IRAQ

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Sep 84 p 38

[Excerpt] The Government of Iraq has concluded its plans for installing an automobile industry and Volkswagen of Brazil is to be responsible for installing the industrial complex for manufacturing automobiles. This information was given by Wolfgang Sauer, president of Volkswagen of Brazil, exclusively to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, explaining that his company has been collaborating with Iraqi authorities toward this end for 9 years and that the project has not been implemented yet only because the industrialization process lost priority as a result of the war with Iran. Besides the automobile factory, Iraq will erect factories for assembling tractors and trucks.

"We are now training Iraqi manpower, preparing the future mechanics of these factories, through the scores of technical consultants we have in the Persian Gulf. We are also helping to set up the network of distribution and technical assistance for the vehicles, getting ready the infrastructure so that as soon as the war ends production can begin," Wolfgang Sauer said. Volkswagen of Brazil "will enter the process with its technology, while the investments will be made by the Iraqi Government itself." He prefers not to mention the production volume and the types of cars Iraq will manufacture: "I think they would prefer to announce this themselves," he explained.

Competition

But, inasmuch as the Iraqi market has satisfactorily absorbed the Passat model, which is being imported from Volkswagen of Brazil (this month the company will conclude export of 50,000 Passats to Iraq, shipped during the last 2 years, with a value of \$300 million), everything indicates that this is one of the models to be produced.

"Of all the cars in Iraq, the Passat has had the best reception, surpassing even the Japanese models, such as Corona, made by Toyota, and the vehicles of Nissan and Mitsubishi. We are surpassing the Japanese even though they are dumping, selling their cars 50 percent cheaper--but later they will sell the replacement parts for 100 percent higher. Although our cars are a little more expensive, the quality is better, in terms of the vehicle's stability, strength and durability. The Passat adapts better to the climate and highway conditions of Iraq, similar to those of Brazil. Moreover, we offer topnotch technical assistance

with several repair shops there, with a good stock of replacement parts and our mechanics who train the Iraqis," Sauer said.

And that is one of the major reasons leading the Iraqi Government to sign before the end of this year a "millionaire" contract with Volkswagen of Brazil for furnishing new Passat units, which will be shipped next year. Although Wolfgang Sauer prefers not to mention the contract figures, as negotiations are now in their final stages, he reveals that the volume will be a little more than the 50,000 units delivered through the port of Aqaba in Jordan, from where they proceed by land to Iraq (Iran impedes movement of ships through the Persian Gulf headed for Iraq).

Other Projects

Conclusion of these negotiations has obligated Sauer to make frequent trips abroad. During last month alone he went to West Germany (the company's headquarters) twice, to Jordan, Iraq and the Middle East, where the Brazilian company also has ambitious projects. "We are going to install, possibly even next year, factories in Egypt and Nigeria for assembling trucks that we produce in Brazil and that will be sent as parts to be assembled there."

With all this new business, Volkswagen of Brazil expects to still be Brazil's leading exporter for the sector next year. This year it is to export \$450 million. Next year it could reach \$500 million. This year, from January through August, the plant has exported 37,620 vehicles, to 80 countries, in addition to replacement parts totalling \$157 million, of which \$78.4 million are for Iraq, \$11.5 million for Mexico, \$20.5 million for Nigeria, \$9.8 million for Argentina and \$4 million for Germany.

All this will require the company to make huge investments. Next year Volkswagen will invest 491.7 billion cruzeiros in new projects, compared with 123.7 cruzeiros to be invested this year. "Despite the crisis, we have never stopped investing in Brazil," says Sauer. "In 1981, the company applied 15.3 billion cruzeiros; in 1982 it invested 20.5 billion cruzeiros; and in 1983, 34.7 billion cruzeiros."

8834

CSO: 3342/8

BRIEFS

NIGERIAN RUBBER IMPORTS--Nigeria will furnish more natural rubber to Brazil. Its share of Brazil's foreign purchases of raw material will be increased from the current 3 percent to about 20 percent in 1985, according to what was established in the Importation Agreement renewed yesterday between the Nigerian Rubber Board, an agency of the Nigerian Government, and Cotia Exports and Imports, the company that represents Nigeria's trade interests in Brazil. Renato Rodrigues Pimentel Leite, executive director of Cotia, announced that the agreement calls for furnishing 10,000 pounds of natural rubber during the coming fiscal year and 10,000 in 1986. For 1984, Leite explained, the volume stipulated is 8,000 tons, the equivalent of \$8 million. One thousand tons are for immediate use; 2,000 tons are for the strategic stocks of the Superintendency of the Rubber Industry (SUDHEVEA); and 5,000 tons will be stocked in a customs warehouse on a consignment basis. "The Brazilian Government is proposing to pay the cost of storing these 5,000 tons," the executive director of Cotia added. The 2,000 tons for the strategic stocks of SUDHEVEA, however, will be contingent upon results of the international bidding Brazil's rubber agency will hold next October. "Nigeria is in a very good position to be the successful bidder. Its freight cost is only one-third of that from Malaysia," the world's largest rubber producer, with about 1 million tons annually. Moreover, Renato Leite emphasized Brazil's interest in expanding bilateral trade with Nigeria to as much as \$1 billion annually. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 21 Sep 84 p 14] 8834

CSO: 3342/8

PRESIDENT OF NEW OPPOSITION PARTY EXPLAINS HUMANIST POSITION

Santiago HOY in Spanish 17 Sep 84 pp 9-10

[Interview with Jose Tomas Saenz, president of the Humanist Party, by Malu Sierra: "Everything New"; date and place not given]

[Text] Jose Tomas Saenz, a reactor (married to Maria Luisa Larraguibel with two children and one on the way), at 35 years of age is one of the oldest members of the brand-new Humanist Party of which he is president. The average age of the executive board is 30 and the average age of the 8,000 members since it began 3 months ago is even lower. These are university youth and city youth. Some are from other political parties like Patricio Bell, president of the Social Democratic Youth, who resigned to join the Humanist Party.

The party was born from "La Comunidad," Silo's followers. It has stated that it morally supports the protests but not the forms of protest. It has proposed not paying the foreign debt and has spoken out to abolish the death penalty and legalize divorce. It advocates lower arms expenditures. Ecology is one of its themes but not the main one. It advocates more pressing themes like all the political parties do.

Its main darts are aimed at this time at the opposition. However, it feels very close to it. Saenz said that the objective is to collaborate to achieve consensus so that this opposition can be a valid interlocutor to confront the regime and effectively represent popular interests.

He said: "The current situation is that the government does not think anything of the opposition, the opposition does not think anything of the government and the people do not think anything of either." There must be unity and people but the latter, he feels, does not mean the current leaders. He off-handedly proposed: "Since the politicians ask for Mr Pinochet's resignation, why don't they all resign? After all, we are in this situation because of them. It is a fact that we politicians are not giving the people the answer they need."

He feels that Pinochet is an able politician and a good soldier because he has been able to remain in power in spite of seemingly untenable situations. "However, that is not enough to be a good ruler. Being president is not the art of remaining in power but of using that power properly to benefit the nation."

[Question] What does 11 September mean to you?

[Answer] It does not seem to me to be a day to celebrate. The result of these 11 years is social ruin, political disorder and the triggering of violent situations. No one knows where they will end.

[Question] The date 11 September was called by the Chileans....

[Answer] Right, one 11 September, not 11 of them. The military was not called to remain for 11 years. The people asked the military to take over the government and, within a prudent time period, call for elections--perhaps a year.

[Question] The government held a plebiscite in 1980 which established the current terms.

[Answer] If that plebiscite were held today, the result would be diametrically different. The government would lose by an overwhelming majority. That is precisely the reason it does not give the people the opportunity to participate.

[Question] What would the alternative be? Who would be in the government?

[Answer] That is the best weapon the government has at this time: there is no visible alternative. There is no visible man or political party that effectively represents the opposition. If the government is measured by itself, it loses. Now if we provide an alternative that is not suitable, I am not so sure that it loses; possibly no one will vote. We still do not see good opposition. The representatives of the people have not been able to agree among themselves on a minimal consensus. They all call for consensus but they all want the consensus to be theirs. Personal and partisan problems have prevented a unified opposition based on the real interests of the country. If the protests have not had great popular participation, it is because they have been called by people who have merely presented a political show.

The opposition and the government fight like children playing cops and robbers or tag. However, no one has denounced the fact that we are now celebrating the expenditure of \$1 billion on armaments in Chile. This would be enough to eliminate all the unemployment in the country. It would be enough to pay wages of 10,000 pesos per month to 1 million people for an entire year. Two submarines, two frigates, two destroyers and other weapons of dissuasion would equal, for example, housing for 200,000. This has not been considered by the politicians who are involved in another topic--who is going to succeed Pinochet when he goes--or the topic of democracy which is not the solution to all evils. The people are going hungry now. It is necessary to denounce everything that works against the general welfare.

[Question] Isn't protesting a form of denunciation? Why didn't you participate?

[Answer] It is unquestionably one form. However, if 130 deaths--the result of the protests--is the necessary price for political change, the Humanist Party is not in the position to assume it. We feel this is not the way to do it.

There are more than enough reasons to protest but not one reason justifies a single death.

[Question] What way do you propose?

[Answer] We proposed changing the protest on 4 and 5 September to a massive collection of signatures throughout the country so that the people could demonstrate for democracy now and do it in a completely peaceful way. There would be hundreds of thousands of people simply asking for signatures for democracy now.

[Question] You think that this type of peaceful protest would not result in the same repression that the protests have which are also convoked as peaceful?

[Answer] We think that if the government is not against popular participation but against violence, there would not be any problem in permitting a proposal like this to be carried out. We have not been able to ask the government because collecting 3 or 4 million signatures is something that would have to be decided by a consensus with the participation of all the democratic sectors of the country. It would be a type of popular consultation.

[Question] The Catholic Church makes the police forces responsible for the violence at the protests. Who do you think is responsible?

[Answer] I think the church is right. However, I think there are sectors in the left that do not have any interest in peacefully achieving a transition because they would never reach power through elections. They are not gambling on Pinochet's downfall but the complete attrition of the Armed Forces to see if they can grab power in the chaos. The government waves that threat around and thus justifies repression. There are violent people at both extremes and in the center there are the democratic sectors that are pacifist. If we do not find a way to keep the violent sectors from playing their game, the intermediate sectors are not going to be heard and it will end the way the protests ended. We saw the protesters march in downtown Santiago. We saw the dogs, the Carabineros and all the dissuasive means they used without any provocation and with impressive virulence. The government cannot deny its part in the violence.

[Question] Mario Rodriguez Cobo--Silo--is the ideologist of the Humanist Party. He said that violence is obsolete. What does that mean?

[Answer] We are saying that it is time for man to leave prehistory. The Humanist Party has defined its function as an attempt to correct the violent direction of an international system. All problems do not have to be solved through violence.

[Question] What you propose--nonviolence--suddenly seems like one more strategy, a way to reach power.

[Answer] We are fighters with a nonviolent method. We think that the political leaders have to be clear about the root of their motivations and how a

violent system influences them so they also participate in violence. Otherwise, it is impossible to present nonviolent solutions. Personal enlightenment is indispensable. It is absurd for a violent person to reach power to solve problems of violence. It is necessary to go through a personal process to reach nonviolence.

[Question] You are a Humanist Party. What is man to you?

[Answer] He is the focus of all concern. He is an expression of life with practically infinite possibilities. This is expressed in his freedom, his creativity and his intentionality. If man lives in a system that inhibits his creativity and his participation and limits his intentionality, that system is inhuman. That is why we lean toward a libertarian system that tends to make living conditions more human.

[Question] Isn't that the objective of all political parties?

[Answer] No, it does not seem to us that a system like the liberal capitalist and the state socialist system favor human living conditions. Everything is decided by the center. We want to leave room for human creativity at all levels.

[Question] Are the Christian humanists that different?

[Answer] Christian Democracy is theocentric. We base ourselves on man from the time he is born until he dies. We do not deny the before and after but we do not assume it either. We focus on human existence.

[Question] What is the political plan of the Humanist Party?

[Answer] We want to create an essentially participative and decentralized society. We have proposed a cooperative economic system where each person is a participant and creator of his job source.

[Question] Isn't that a giant step?

[Answer] It is the step this crisis needs. It is the step toward humanism that always arises when man is in serious danger. Today the danger is one of total "dehumanization" or total nuclear destruction.

[Question] Who knows what is best for the people?

[Answer] The people. Therefore, they have to participate and, before that, organize. The people have to provide their own solutions.

[Question] If they asked you now to collaborate in the transition, would you agree?

[Answer] We could not participate in the government as things are at this time. It seems to us that the solution for this country can be found through a great national consensus of the politicians, a social pact between management and

labor, a national agreement. As long as social and political forces are not aware of the serious situation of the country and do not come to an agreement, we cannot become accomplices in the situation. To participate without decision-making ability so we can change the situation? No way. We would not play the role of Onofre Jarpa, the regime preserver.

7717

CSO: 3348/6

CHILE

BRIEFS

SUBMARINE 'SIMPSON' JOINS FLEET--On 18 September the submarine "Simpson" officially joined the Chilean fleet at the port of Kiel, FRG. The solemn ceremony to hoist the national colors and christen the new ship was presided over by Rear Adm Osvaldo Schwarzenberg, commander in chief of the Second Naval Zone and commander in chief of the Submarine Force. Florencia Afhton de Schwarzenberg was the submarine's sponsor. This unit displaces 1,180 tons on the surface and 1,185 submerged. It is 183 feet long and 20 feet in beam. It is equipped with 8 21-inch torpedo tubes and is propelled by two electronic MTU diesel engines with 5,000 horsepower capable of reaching a speed of 10 knots on the surface and 22 knots submerged. The "Simpson" is the twin of the submarine "Thomson." Its commander is Frigate Capt Arturo Wilson Browne. [Text] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 20 Sep 84 p 14] 7717

CSO: 3348/6

ANTIGUA SEEN PLAYING ROLE IN U.S. 'DOMINATION' OF REGION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 16 Sep 84 p 9

[Article by Alberto Rabilotta]

[Text] "Antigua is one of the English-speaking Caribbean countries that plays a key role in U.S. plans for regional domination," said Tim Hector, leader of the Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement. In remarks to PRENSA LATINA, Hector denounced the sell-out position of Antigua's Prime Minister Vere Bird. "His pro-U.S. regime had the gall to support the mining of Nicaraguan ports by the CIA," added the opposition leader.

Tim Hector was in Montreal to attend a conference on the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of black peoples of the Caribbean and North America.

He provided data on how, under the Bird regime, Antigua has become increasingly dependent on the United States, in the economic, political and military fields.

In the last three years, Antigua has received a total of 100 million dollars in economic and military aid from the United States while the country has 40 percent unemployment. Hector explained that part of this money is lost to bureaucratic corruption.

Tourism, which accounts for 60 percent of the Gross National Product, is under the control of U.S. companies, which own 32 of the 36 hotels on the island, which has a population of about 70,000.

Huge stretches of idle land, abandoned by its former British colonial rulers, belong to the state but are not used to produce food needed by the people. The bulk of the island's fuel for which Antigua must make huge outlays, comes from the United States.

In the framework of the so-called Caribbean Basin Initiative sponsored by the Reagan administration, Antigua is a favorable site for private investment in view of the prevailing low wages.

There are also laws which ban labor protests and strikes.

Antigua "has the sad distinction of being the only country with two U.S. military bases and a relay station for the Voice of America," Hector said.

The Vere Bird government has placed the island at the service of U.S. strategy. The island was the transfer point for Canadian and U.S. weapons sent to the racist regime of South Africa a few years ago. It also served as a bridgehead for the materiel to British forces during the war of aggression against the Malvinas as well, he noted.

Last October, the political planning for the invasion of Grenada took place in Antigua, while Barbados was the logistical base. Bird has increased the size of the army and police to 562 and 700 men, respectively.

The Bird family controls virtually the entire government with leading posts going to his sons; defense, the economy, foreign affairs, public works, tourism, aviation, information and consumption.

CSO: 3200/10

UJC SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH POLISH YOUTH GROUPS

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 4 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Warsaw--The Cuban Union of Young Communists (UJC) and the Polish Socialist Youth and Students Unions today signed in this capital a 1984-86 cooperation agreement.

The document was signed for the Cuban side by UJC First Secretary Carlos Lage and for the Polish side by the four presidents of the Polish youth organizations: Jerzy Szmajdzinski (ZSMP) [Union of Socialist Polish Youth], Cesary Droszcz (ZSP) [Association of Polish Students], Ryszard Wesinski and Leszek Lesniak (KZMP) [Communist Union of Polish Youth].

Referring to the aims of the work outlined for the youth of both countries for the period involved, the document notes the following as fundamental ones:

Cooperation to maintain peace and stop the arms race; development of anti-imperialist solidarity; cooperation in the field of socialist and internationalist cooperation; the movement for participation of youth in the sociopolitical and economic life, in the efficiency movement and in work emulation; development of contacts in the areas of sports, tourism, culture and science; training of cadres, and exchange of experiences and documents between the two sides concerning their activities; and development of direct contacts between young workers, peasants, students and journalists of youth organs, within the framework of the Carlos Roloff youth brigades.

The document further states that the youth organizations of the two countries, faithful to the postulate of proletarian internationalism, are prepared to cooperate to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between them, with a view toward the Marxist-Leninist education of the young generation.

The agreement also states that the two sides will expand cooperation in the socioeconomic tasks in which their respective countries are involved, by mobilizing the young generation to increase work efficiency and introduce new techniques.

It further notes the desire of the youth organizations to expand friendship and cooperation with the youth unions of fraternal socialist countries and to

strengthen the unity of the youth and students' democratic movement, by their complete support for the Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students, and by active participation in the preparations for the 12th World [Youth] Festival.

Referring to the tense international situation, the document charges that the cause of it is the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism employed from a position of strength and that such policy tends toward nuclear conflict and does not take into account the most elemental human rights.

The organizations also state they are convinced that peace must be consolidated solely on the basis of the principles of equality and identical security for all states. They declare that the Polish Socialist Youth and Students Unions and the Cuban UJC will continue to undertake tasks that help to lessen international tension and strengthen trust on relations among states and that are for peace and security.

9925

CSO: 3248/800

UNDERGROUND SHELTERS, CIVIL DEFENSE SYSTEM PRAISED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 33, 17 Aug 84 pp 56-57

[Text] The first thing a visitor will admire when he arrives in Cuba is the cheerfulness of the people, who can devote themselves to their job for hours and hours and, after work is over, line up in queues to see a movie premiere, and still dance and laugh.

While this might seem something normal, it will attract the attention of a visitor because he has read and has been told that they would be justified in feeling alarm and frowning.

The visitor will tour the island, will see the achievements of the revolution, and will note that the youth who live in the remotest corners of the island are dressed and shod just like the youth in the capital, because country and city differences are disappearing day by day.

He will never know, however--even though it is an open secret among Cubans--that morning, day or night, these same people who work and play, sing and laugh, were also able to build another country underground.

Of course, he will realize why we have to do it. It is because Cuba, and he knows it, is living under the growing threat of war from the United States, an arrogant neighbor who disdains the lessons of history.

Someone told me that everyone in Vietnam has three shelters: one in his own home, another one on his way to work or school, and still another one at his workplace or school. We have learned a lesson from the experience of Vietnam whose heroism the whole world knows about. The more shelters we can build, the greater the chances of defeating the enemy in a war involving all the people.

During a tour of some provinces, BOHEMIA reporters were amazed at what they saw. Especially when they were told that each project is being built out of scrap materials and that they are designed to insure that not even napalm--that criminal weapon of the imperialists--can cause any casualties among the shelter occupants.

Our gratification increased when we observed that special attention was given to the protection of children. For example, there is a shelter located no further away than 50 to 100 meters from the workplace or the school. Most of them have three entrances. Every daycare center, every school knows the entrance to use when the airraid alarm goes off.

Various types of shelters have been built. A junked Leyland bus may serve as a shelter, if you know how to do it. Our Civil Defense and our people know. Did you know that a railroad car can be used as a shelter when it is turned upside down? Of course, the secret lies in the depth underground of the shelter--the deeper it is, the greater the protection.

All preparations have been properly made: electric light, auxiliary generators in case of power failures, drinking water and facilities designed for children.

Some of the shelters we saw consisted of scrap bridge drainage materials, stakes, beams and tiles. There were steel doors to protect against the blast wave of the bombs and prefabricated concrete walls.

Ventilation has been achieved by prodigal use of the imagination and it can be said that camouflage has been accomplished in all cases.

All this has been made possible with the help of all the people, with the cooperation of all the enterprises which had the means, and with the support of the party and the state.

Nothing has been left to chance. Thus, there are medical stations to provide first aid to the injured until they can be evacuated if necessary.

Every municipality in the country has a centralized alarm system. The sirens will sound at the touch of a simple button to alert the public early enough to make preparations. When this happens, all national broadcasting stations will transmit the signal and will provide necessary instructions to the public. These stations will also broadcast the all-clear signal after the danger has passed.

Once the shelters have been vacated, the rescue of any possible injured will take place and aid will be provided wherever requested for salvage and urgent repairs of the damage caused, thereby speedily surmounting the consequences of the aggression.

To coordinate and further advance the training in civil defense of workers and the population in general, Joint Commands have been organized of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], the Cuban Women's Federation [FMC], the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, and the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP].

In the coming month of September the so-called readings with commentary will begin at regular FMC, CDR and ANAP meetings.

Efforts will be made to make sure that the reiteration of the readings with commentary of the materials which Civil Defense will send to the state agencies and mass organizations will not deaden their interest in them. To this end, the content of the readings will be focused on the concrete conditions at the location where the members of the groups work, study or live, so that once all the information has been heard, each worker, peasant, housewife, student, in short, every citizen of this country, will know, in any situation, what to do and how to do it, wherever he is. Only in this way will we be ready to resist and to win.

Officers of these groups will attend a methodological seminar under the direction of the party and the control of the Civil Defense.

There is something else about the shelters: they are also designed for peacetime use. Meetings and even social and recreational events can be held in them, which gives the use of this modest but important investment in resources double value.

The enemy will not catch us by surprise. The defense of the country is assured and the orders of the party and the state are being faithfully obeyed.

12674

CSO: 3248/2

LOCAL FISHERMEN REPORT ON CONTINUING LOBSTER THIEVERY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 23 Aug 84 p 3

[Excerpts] A letter to this newspaper from Carlos Hernandez, a fisherman from Playa Carahatas, Quemados de Guines, Villa Clara, has disclosed a situation taking place there and in Isabela de Sagua in the same province. It concerns the poaching of lobster from traps and trap destruction in adjacent trapping areas.

The letter from the Villa Clara fisherman--a working man, party member and skipper of the Jaruco 184 fishing boat--states that lobster poaching has been going on for years to the detriment of the fulfillment of the trapping production plan of the fishing enterprise.

This reporter went to Playa Carahatas and Isabela de Sagua and confirmed the origin and contents of the letter in conversations with fishermen and foremen of these enterprises of the Ministry of the Fishing Industry.

These inquiries brought out the fact that the thievery disclosed in the letter and personally asserted by the fishermen, amounted to an estimated 1,000 kilograms of lobster being stolen every week, which gives one some idea of the seriousness of the irritating problem.

If this quantity of stolen lobster (1 metric ton equals 2,200 pounds) could be exported by Cuba it would bring in some \$10,000 of income per week into the country, and this in turn could be used to acquire certain resources needed by the economy and its development, or to obtain other foodstuffs, medicines or raw materials of national importance.

Stealing a ton of lobster and even greater quantities as the fishermen themselves say has been the case, not only means a considerable loss of foreign exchange, but also a loss to the fishing enterprise of a counterpart amount in national currency. (In this case the loss is incurred by the Industrial Fishing Complex of Villa Clara and its enterprises in Sagua and Playa Carahatas.) It also means a loss of well-earned wages by the selfless lobster trappers of the two places.

Stealing the catches of these men is tantamount to living off their sweat. It is to exploit them. It clashes with the morality of our socialist economy.

The fishing area worked by Carlos Hernandez, for example is more than 3 hours away from Playa Carahatas in the keys north of Villa Clara. His work is risky, remote and rough, like almost all jobs at sea. How unfair it is to steal his lobsters!

The modus operandi of lobster poachers in this area is to plunder the traps containing the valuable export product and, generally, to render the traps useless for further service, or to destroy them, thereby compounding the economic consequences of their blameworthy acts. Time after time the fishermen of this area find their traps plundered and left open (allowing the lobsters to escape), or displaced, or inverted (which impedes or prevents trapping), or they simply never find their traps again.

Justly

"They steal from us every day. Sometimes we lose 500 to 600 kilograms in just one day. Sometimes they haul in as many as two or three traplines a day. There are 30 traps to each trapline and they may have as many as 200 lobsters per trapline."

The foregoing was stated by Roberto Martinez Huet, skipper of one of the lobster boats of Isabela de Sagua, who has also been victimized by the continuous poaching. This man of the sea while admitting that the fishermen of Playa Carahatas have been hurt the most by the poaching, asked himself the question: "If lobster is such an expensive product, so valuable to the country, how is it possible that so little attention has been given to it?"

The fisherman said that it is a common rumor that lobster is being sold in the "open market", that is, illegally, in Sagua (Sagua la Grande). "My wife overheard it while standing in line at a bus stop, and I thought; They may be our lobsters!"

Another Isabela lobsterman, Manuel Martinez Cardenas, said that last week "they stole 17 traps and two rolls of high-quality rope, 150 to 200 fathoms in length each."

This man, also a victim of these crimes, calculates that the scale of these "operations" approaches at least 1 ton of lobster a week (he was robbed of half a ton on two occasions). It can happen any day of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays," he pointed out.

Another Isabela fisherman, Antonio Torna, who has also been victimized, said: "This situation has been going on for years, but it has now become intolerable. Now it isn't just one trap but 20..."

The tough seaman gave this reporter his opinion about the destination of so much stolen lobster. "The poachers cut off the lobsters tails. They place the tails in sacks and when they get near Isabela they drop the sack in the water and go back to get it later."

Questions

The foregoing explanation by Antonio Torna does not seem implausible. This or another method like it may be the one followed by the poachers to unload the stolen lobsters unobserved.

Actually, all vessels are subject to inspection upon entering a port.

Still, the stolen lobster come in and are very probably sold at exorbitant prices. The Isabela-Playa Carahatas coastline is very irregular and rough, yet if the poached lobsters come in by way of Isabela, there aren't that many routes to watch from here to Sagua.

How can it be that this situation has persisted and even grown? How can such a volume of poaching on the high seas be explained? Who are the poachers? When will this poaching that hurts the economy and the fishermen cease? Why has the fishing enterprise underestimated these thefts which have been detrimental to it? Why haven't there been stronger measures against it?

12674

CSO: 3248/22

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS UP FOR FIRST HALF OF 1984

Carelessness, Drunkenness To Blame

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 28 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] A total of 10,624 traffic accidents caused the deaths of 814 persons and the injury of 7,278 others in the nation for the first half of 1984. This is an increase in every category compared to the same period in 1983.

From January to July of this year, traffic accidents went up 2 percent, fatalities went up 15 percent (107 victims) and the number of injured rose by 3 percent.

Property damage caused by these accidents rose to more than 2 million pesos.

Most of the accidents occurred in urban areas. Of the total number of accidents, 62.5 percent took place in the City of Havana, although there were also increases during the period in urban areas of Camaguey, Granma and Holguin.

There were 2,389 accidents in rural areas. Holguin showed the greatest gain in this category in 1984.

Almost one-fourth of the 814 persons killed were pedestrians. Excessive speed affected the seriousness of the accident. This violation caused 7 percent of the accidents, 16 percent of the persons killed, and 15 percent of those injured.

Drunken drivers accounted for a large increase in the number and degree of seriousness of the accident. They caused 4 percent of the total, 9 percent of the dead, and 6 percent of the injured, indices which are higher than those for the same period in 1983.

During this period the National Revolutionary Police detected more persons driving vehicles while intoxicated or without a valid driver's license than in previous periods.

These figures show that these accidents and their consequences are the result of irresponsible and careless drivers and pedestrians.

Furthermore, the accidents were not the result of indeterminate mechanical failure, poor highway conditions or the weather. Although an accident may be caused by them, it has been shown by investigation that accidents rarely happen for such reasons. It is the individual--irresponsible or negligent--who is the root cause of accidents. That is why greater care and prudence are necessary.

Journalist Killed in Accident

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 6 Aug 84 p 4

[Text] Jose Ramon Orozco Perez, prominent news photographer of the newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE, was killed yesterday in this capital in a regrettable traffic accident.

Wholly dedicated to the tasks of the revolution from an early age as a member of the Young Communist's Union and later of the party, Orozco devoted the last 16 years of his life to the revolutionary press and by his unflagging zeal became one of today's most outstanding news photographers.

Attesting to this is a rich collection of photographs that have recorded the work of the revolution in nearly all facets of national life, and a collection of the national awards he has received.

At his death he was 36 years of age and he had been elected by his comrades as secretary general of the party committee in JUVENTUD REBELDE in recognition of his immense human qualities, his abilities, and his dedication.

His body lies in state at the funeral home on Calzada and K Streets.

12674

CSO: 3248/22

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN INTELLECTUALS' MEETING--Santiago de Cuba--This city will host from 21-24 October the Maurice Bishop in memoriam Caribbean meeting of anti-imperialist intellectuals, which will coincide with the first anniversary of the fall of the Grenadan leader. A very large group of intellectuals from the Caribbean region will attend. They include, among others, writers, sociologists and historians, who are willing to have a fruitful exchange of markedly anti-imperialist views for the unity of all nations of the region. The meeting will be held under the direct auspices of Casa Caribe, in coordination with the capital's center for studies on America. The meeting will be conducted in sessions of various committees that will cover topics concerning the contemporary Caribbean. [Text] [Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 10 Aug 84 p 1] 9925

CSO: 3248/800

NEW MANUFACTURERS GROUP IN DISPUTE WITH DAIC

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Sep 84 p 12

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, (CANA-REUTER): The battle lines have been drawn between two organisations grouping businessmen here--the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) and its new rival, the Dominica Manufacturers Association (DMA).

DMA officials said they were forced to set up a rival organisation because the DAIC was offering the business community an inadequate service.

The DMA headed by businessman Parry Bellot, claimed that people had been resigning from the DAIC because of dissatisfaction with the service it offers.

The DAIC hit back by saying it did not expect its rival to be around for very long. "Manufacturers in Dominica do not need a temporary representative headed by those who feel that a particular official action reacts negatively on them at a particular point in time...manufacturers in Dominica need a permanent representative to look after their longer term interests," Ninian Marie, chairman of the Manufacturing Committee of the DAIC, said.

But the DMA said many of its members--so far only the names of a ten member council of management have been released--were frustrated by the slow pace of development of the DAIC over the past years and decided to give another organisation a chance to change things.

Bellot said his group aims to promote and encourage the development in Dominica of manufacturing operations as well as all forms of private industrial activity suitable to the community and capable of making contributions to the economic welfare and development of the island.

Friction

The friction between the DAIC and Bellot started after manufacturers appointed a steering committee headed by Marie to examine the feasibility of establishing a Manufacturers Association.

"To my surprise and amazement..., I was informed that a Manufacturers Association had been formed within a week of that meeting," Marie said.

"I was further disappointed by virtue of the fact that five of the seven individuals elected to serve on the steering committee which was supposed to have reported to the general body within a month were subscribers to the memorandum of association of the DMA."

Bellot has underlined the need for quick action. "We want to move quickly and to be organised, because we want to be able to get the assistance from overseas. We want to be able to affiliate with other people," he said.

While admitting that there had been "an inauspicious start" to the manufacturers subgroup in the DAIC, Marie said the body could grow in stature because of the level-headed, rational and logical way in which business was being done.

"Like all other groups with limited manpower and other resources, we must avoid duplication and waste, for surely that is the formula for failure and disappointment," he added.

The DAIC said one of the major-objectives of the sub-group is to identify the problems facing manufacturers.

"Particular attention must be paid to particular problems since these problems must not be generalised away as in the past," the DAIC said.

While some of their problems as manufacturers are shared with "our brothers and sisters" in the commercial sector, "we bear a higher burden of risk and are more severely affected by the vagaries of economics organisation," it added.

The DAIC has also disclosed that in furtherance of its desire to assist the local manufacturers, it has drawn up a questionnaire from which it hopes "to get current information on the status, activities, resources, needs and problems of manufacturing enterprises in Dominica."

"This questionnaire was circulated among manufacturers and an attempt was made to gather as much information as was possible. Suffice it to say that the response did not live up to anticipations," said Marie.

CSO: 3298/018

NEW PCN SECRETARY GENERAL, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 3 Sep 84 pp 3, 25

[Text] Yesterday the new National Conciliation Party executive council was sworn in. Its secretary general is the industrialist Raul Molina Martinez. It will serve during the 1984-87 period and will be responsible for national party leadership by orienting its operations through various political activities. The committee cited will prepare the political groundwork for drawing up plans for the coming legislative and mayoral campaign. They stated that within the party there is no division such as people have tried to see created; what happens, they say, is that within its democratic process they do not impose situations because everything is deliberative.

In addition, they state that within their constant analyses of the country's problems they are working toward making a statement on problems currently affecting the country. Great efforts are going into preparing candidates who will represent this faction in the next elections, and they say they are sure that the Salvadoran people will be aware of the effort expended.

The committee consists of the following: secretary general, Raul Molina Martinez; secretary for organization and administration, Juan Jose Bolilla; secretary for ideology and political studies, Hugo Carrillo Corleto; communications and propaganda, Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero; secretary for women's affairs, Mrs Zoila v. de Rodriguez; secretary for agrarian and community development affairs, Rutilio Aguilera.

In addition, Mario Antonio Andino will serve in the trade union and cooperative action secretariat; secretary for youth and sports activities, Prof Luis Angel Lalos; secretary for resources and economic studies, Benjamin Wilfredo Navarrete; secretary for records and agreements, Mr. Jose Gerardo Ramos; and secretary for legal affairs, Ciro Cruz Zepeda Pena, attorney.

9436

CSO: 3248/799

ARMY COMMAND CHANGES IN CHALATENANGO, CABANAS ANNOUNCED

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 4 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] Further changes in commanders of major units in the armed forces, with garrisons in different areas of the country, will be carried out in the months ahead, Defense Ministry sources said today, as part of the new structure and combat consolidation of the army.

It was reported that in the general order of last 31 August the following officers were reassigned: Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, who had been undergoing training at the Interamerican Defense Institute in Washington, DC, was assigned to and has already taken over as commanding officer of the 4th Infantry Brigade at El Paraiso, Chalatenango; previously he was CO of the 2nd Military Detachment in Cabanas with headquarters in Sensuntepeque, which he was relieved of year before last because of a contretemps with the then defense minister, Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia.

It is reported in the same order that the CO of the 2nd Military Detachment, Lieut Col Carlos Alfredo Rivas, has been designated as deputy commander of the Armed Forces Training Center (CEFA) at its joint headquarters in this capital. Replacing him in Sensuntepeque will be Lieut Col Carlos Mauricio Guzman Aguilar who was previously assigned as executive officer in the 3rd Infantry Brigade in San Miguel.

Col Luis Adalberto Landaverde who formerly served as CO of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango, has been assigned to the International Defense Institute in Washington, DC.

Likewise Capt Luis Mario Aguilar Alfaro who had been assigned as executive officer of the 2nd Armed Forces Press Committee Headquarters (COPREFA) was transferred with an administrative assignment to the General Directorate of Civil aviation.

9436

CSO: 3248/799

STATE OF MEXICO: PAN THREAT TO PRI SEEN IN 12 DISTRICTS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Aug 84 pp 4-A, 22-A, 23-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Text] 12 State of Mexico Mayors' Office in Danger

Twelve districts in the State of Mexico have been jeopardized by the opposition in the 1985 federal elections, as shown by statistics obtained from the analysis of the election figures in that state for the past 10 years. PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] has won in those districts by a very slim margin, and there is the disturbing fact that PAN [National Action Party] increased its votes over 200 percent from 1979 to 1982.

According to a PRI analysis of the electoral situation in the State of Mexico, and the prospects for next year, one observes that the number of registered voters has undergone an explosive increase: from 1.666 million to 3.102 million citizens. And the trend is that the opposition is attracting a sizable number of new voters.

The vote in favor of PAN had fluctuations during the period from 1973 to 1982, but it made a strong recovery during the last electoral process, with 613,545 votes, representing a percentage of 19.77, the largest gained since 1973.

During the 10-year period analyzed, one notes that PRI had only one peaceful election period: that of 1976, resulting from PAN's internal problems. That year, the tricolor party made off with the big take: It won 1.65 million votes, 53.66 percent of the total registered voters. PAN dropped to only 186,427 votes, with a meager 9.38 percent. The PRI candidates won by a very wide margin in all the districts, but it was only during that year.

However, tight elections have been typical since 1973. That year, PAN received 298,613 votes and the PRI candidates in Districts VII, XII and XV were in a cold sweat when it was time for the count. PRI won 798,740 votes, with a percentage of 47.92.

17 Districts: PRI Cold Sweat

In 1979, the political reform started, and in the State of Mexico the number of electoral districts was increased from 15 to 34. Competing with the Leftist Coalition, PDM [Mexican Democratic Party] and PST [Socialist Workers Party], as well as PPS [Popular Socialist Party] and PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution], PAN achieved a recovery in its vote to 202,432 votes; while the left had 127,064. Now there were 17 districts in which the PRI were in a cold sweat when it was time to make the vote count. The total PRI vote was 978,776, less than that in 1976, and representing 40.70 percent of the total registered voters.

In that year, abstention progressed, because it rose from 543,281 in 1976 to 782,912, representing a percentage of 32.56. The districts in which the PRI victories were tight were the following: VII, IX, X, XII, XIV, XVIII (which it would lose in the next election), XIX, XX, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII and XXIX.

The 1982 elections gave a categorical example of the explosive electoral advancement of PAN: The white and blue party increased its vote by 411,113 votes, making a total of 613,545. It won by a wide margin in District XVIII (Naucalpan), and lost by a narrow margin in 11 other districts.

In an analysis, PRI concluded that the State of Mexico has shown constant statistics from 1979 to 1982 wherein Districts VII, IX, XII, XIV, XIX, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII and XXIX have been won from PAN with margins narrower than 15,000 votes.

The analysts add: "This situation necessitates paying special attention to them, because the current economic circumstances will influence the mentality of the voters for 1985, and also because the average electoral lists in those districts do not exceed 65,000 registered voters."

An interesting detail in this respect is that in 1982 the abstention declined from 782,912 voters who did not exercise their right in 1979 to 413,403, a figure amounting to only 13.45 percent of the total.

Although many new voters have been attracted by PRI, which increased its vote in 1982 by 448,654, the percentage of increase gained by PAN is more impressive because it won 411,113 more votes, with an increase from 202,432 to 613,545 votes. PSUM won 154,636, and PDM won 73,455.

The State of Mexico has had a considerable increase in the number of registered votes from one election to the next; and hence a notable increment will be evident next year in comparison with the 3.102 million in 1982. PRI won a total of 1,427,430 votes, representing 46.01 percent of the total. However, the electoral differences from one process to another have attested to a great deal of mobility in the State of Mexico, precisely because of the obvious increase in registered voters.

The question is which party will attract the largest number of those new voters. And the battle between PAN and PRI, to attract new votes, is dangerously even for the majority.

2,000 for 121 Mayors' Offices

About 2,000 politicians on all levels have registered informally as candidates for the 121 municipal presidencies in the State of Mexico.

Also, when the "informal registrations" for the 34 State Congress seats ended yesterday, PRI calculated that at least about 1,000 persons were registered.

It was reported that the PRI notice for final registration will be made public at the end of this month. The state steering committee indicated, furthermore, that during the first week of September it would submit its lists of three candidates for the State Congresses and municipal presidencies in the elections that will take place on 11 November.

Until nightfall, in the 121 municipalities of the State of Mexico, there was "informal registration" of those who consider themselves to have sufficient qualifications to head the town halls.

Moreover, the committee noted that, once the informal registration ends, the final recount will be made today of the lists of candidates, from which the final lists of three will emerge to obtain the candidates who will run in the elections on 11 November.

2909

CSO: 3248/13

STATE OF MEXICO: PAN MUNICIPAL, STATE CONGRESS CANDIDATES

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Sep 84 pp 4-A, 22-A, 23-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] PAN Candidates in the State of Mexico

"We shall win notable victories in the leading municipalities of the State of Mexico," claimed Astolfo Vicencio Tovar, head of PAN [National Action Party] in that state, upon releasing the list of that party's candidates yesterday, as well.

He commented: "If PRI persists in its fraudulent positions, we shall exhaust all the legal provisions and we shall back the people in all their demands that the vote be respected." He added that, in cases of fraud, popular town councils would be formed.

As PAN candidates for mayor, he cited Angel Flores Guadarrama, in Tlalnepantla; Salvador Lopez Sanchez, in Nezahualcoyotl; Agustin Torres Delgado, in Atizapan; Victor Guerrero Gonzalez, in Toluca; and Misael Joel Hernandez, in Apaxco. The one for Naucalpan will be nominated on 15 September.

The candidates for state congressman are:

District I, Noe Aguilar Tinajero; II, Eugenio Sanchez Lira; III, Pascual Vargas Gomez; IV, Maria Teresa Escobar Ortiz; V, Marcos Ortiz Carvajal; VI, Jose Aguilar Martinez; VII, Apolinar Meza; VIII, Patricia Hernandez Benitez; IX, Beatriz Amalia Guerrero; X, Margarito Caballero; XI, Francisco Juarez Gonzalez; XIV, Francisco Plata Perez; XVI, Miguel de Jesus Hernandez; XVI, Jose Luis Grimaldo Pina; XVII, Carlos Camacho Calderon; XVIII, Jose Blas Briseno; XIX, Manuel Canas Sanchez; XX, Odilia Delgado Cruz; XXI, Ricardo Martinez Olade; XXII, Maria Clara Vazquez; XXIII, Pablo Mondragon Garcia; XXIV, Angel Alvarez Garcia; XXV, Jesus Soria Perez; XXVI, Jorge Juarez Fierro; XXVII, Ruth Olvera Nieto; XXVII, Guillermo Trueba Franco; XXIX, Francisco Garape Chapa; XXX, Jose Aguilar Moreno; XXXI, Ramon Casillas; XXXII, Jose Rodriguez Vivar; and XXXIII, Silvia Osorio Alvarado.

2909

CSO: 3248/13

STATE OF MEXICO ELECTORAL ALLIANCE OF LEFT SPELLED OUT

Mexico City ASI ES in Spanish No 119, 14 Sep 84 p 12

[Apparent text of "political pact" concluded by Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, Revolutionary Workers Party, Socialist Current and Communist Left Unity, undated]

[Text] We the undersigned organizations have decided to establish an electoral alliance to run in the elections in the state of Mexico, thus combating the policy of hunger, poverty and antidemocracy that prevails in this state. The people most responsible for this policy are the PRI administration and the big capitalists, who have the backing of the reactionary and business parties such as PAN [National Action Party]. The alliance pledges to run as a duly registered electoral coalition.

The purpose of this coalition is to give blue-collar workers, peasant farmers, sharecroppers, white-collar workers, professionals, small businessmen, young people and women, in other words, the people in general, the chance to cast their ballots for a change in the course that the country and the government are on and against PRI and PAN, which both represent the interests of capitalist businessmen and landowners.

We have decided to appeal to the various leftist organizations in the state that are willing to make and honor commitments, to join this effort, which has as its objective to put forth a single front of leftwing organizations in the state of Mexico, a front that will be in a better position to oppose the ruling party and to halt the gains of reactionary forces such as PAN.

We have formed this alliance for another objective as well: to act as a unified political force inside and outside Congress in a bid to undertake wideranging mass campaigns for higher living standards for the workers, for broader democratic freedoms and for services for the entire population. Hence we will not engage in electioneering. We seek to take advantage of this opportunity for struggle to complement the efforts of the population as a whole towards meeting their most pressing needs, with an eye to building up strength and as part of

the overall struggle that the workers are engaged in to take the reins of this country and put an end to the oppression.

Below we present the points of the political agreement; they are the foundation of the election alliance and will guide the actions of the parties in it:

1. The alliance is established on the basis of the signing of this political pact, the adoption of a common electoral platform and the single approved list of candidates in the districts of the state of Mexico.
2. The alliance takes the name of the Unified Popular Alliance and adopts an emblem combining the logos of the registered political parties (the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico and the Revolutionary Workers Party) for purposes of registration with the appropriate electoral bodies, and all allied forces pledge to call on voters to cast their ballots for this emblem.
3. The coalition parties retain the freedom to develop ties and reach agreements with organizations that have not signed this pact within the context of the current political accord.
4. All of the alliance's decisions will be made by consensus. The allied organizations will show mutual respect and will not attack each other in public. When differences arise, they will be examined by the group, with the primary emphasis on the importance of preserving unity.
5. The alliance's election platform and the present political pact will represent the hub of joint activity during the election campaign and will be the basis for oral and written propaganda. At the same time, the individual political parties retain the freedom to espouse their own programs.
6. The election alliance will seek accords with other political and social forces in a bid to prevent electoral fraud and to undertake all actions aimed at defending and promoting the points contained in the common electoral platform.
7. The alliance's candidates will base their campaigns on the common electoral platform, will publicize it and pledge to fight to make its demands met. The guidelines of conduct for these candidates will be to work under the alliance's political coordination, to represent the interests of the people and to be independent of the administration and the employer parties.
8. The alliance will schedule a series of major events and activities in the main regions and cities and will publicize the electoral platform and the coalition emblem as much as possible throughout the state. The representatives of the coalition parties will take part in these activities. In the districts in which these parties have an organization,

the campaign will be planned and carried out jointly. In the locations in which not all the parties are to be found or in which only one exists, the involvement of the other parties in campaign activities will be up to the judgment of that party or parties.

9. The allied parties pledge that once the elections are over they will continue their joint activities in the Chamber of Deputies on the basis of the electoral platform and through ongoing forms of collaboration. The initiatives and proposals of the alliance's deputies will be accompanied by mass rallies to support them.

10. The alliance will establish a joint fund to defray the expenses entailed in joint activities. The fund will consist of the monies that the allied parties contribute and the proceeds from joint activities.

11. The alliance will have a coordinating commission; it will be made up of a representative of each of the parties and will be in charge of political decision-making in the campaign.

State Committee of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico
Secretary General, Alejandro Encinas Rodriguez

State Coordinating Commission of the Socialist Current
Political Officer, Rafael Hernandez Estrada

State Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Party
Secretary General, Ignacio Dotor Vilano

State Committee of Communist Left Unity
Secretary General, Anselmo Garcia Cruz

8743

CSO: 3248/16

PAN OFFICIALS SEE INCONSISTENCIES IN PRI ACCUSATIONS

Mexico City LA NACION in Spanish 15 Sep 84 pp 10-13

[Interview with Jesus Gonzalez Schmal, international affairs secretary, and Bernardo Batiz, secretary general, of the National Action Party (PAN), on 28 August, place not given]

[Text] Why did the government and hence its party react as they did to the mere fact that PAN accepted the U.S. Republican Party's invitation to send observers to its convention on 17 and 18 August? asked Jesus Gonzalez Schmal, the PAN international affairs secretary, who attended the convention along with Jorge Eugenio Ortiz Gallegos. The answer was as follows: "We simply feel that this is a primitive reaction that demonstrates resistance to the political change that is taking place in Mexico."

It all began with a dispatch from EXCELSIOR's correspondent in Washington, Jose Manuel Nava, who was covering the Republican convention in Dallas. The paper published the dispatch under this headline: "Republican Crusade to Extend Democracy" and with this subhead: "PAN and Nine Other Parties Invited." The story, which was full of lies rather than malice, said:

"The Republican Party today began a new crusade to extend 'democracy' in the world and set up an international foundation to support moderate and conservative institutions and groups that back U.S. policy

"Mexico's PAN was invited to take part in this plan, which also includes political organizations from nine other Latin American countries. A PAN delegation is attending the Republican National Convention... With regard to the Republican International Cooperation Foundation, Allen reported at a press conference that

close to 50 political groups from the Americas, Europe and Asia are already involved. Representatives of these institutions have been invited to the convention at foundation expense, he said...In the Americas...PAN is so far the only Mexican institution taking part in this Republican plan..."

Malicious lies, but this was the origin of the artificial national scandal. The manager of PRI, Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, Fidel Velazquez and other prominent beneficiaries of the system, the charlatans who live off selling themselves to PRI and many people who were unknown until the ruling party's 12th assembly, they all began lashing out at PAN, accusing it of being on Reagan's payroll so that it will sell Mexico to him.

PAN stated that pursuant to its rights it had accepted the Republican Party's invitation, just as 30 PRI lawmakers had previously accepted an invitation from the Democratic Party, that the party had defrayed the expenses of the two observers it sent and that it had not heard of the aforementioned plan and foundation. But the howls continued. On Tuesday the 28th the press interviewed Gonzalez Schmal, who was accompanied by the party's secretary general, Deputy Bernardo Batiz, and its press secretary Gonzalo Altamirano.

Batiz and Gonzalez Schmal explained the circumstances surrounding the invitation thoroughly and why the party accepted. More than 2 years ago the party's National Council decided to intensify relations with democratic parties and groups throughout the world. It is for this reason that it has been in Costa Rica, Spain, at the elections in El Salvador, in Venezuela, has met with representatives from Germany, Austria, Korea, England and France and has received the Nicaraguan ambassador and well-known figures from other countries in its offices. "Why should PAN, as a democratic party, refrain from maintaining relations with analogous parties elsewhere in the world? Only in a totalitarian regime would we hear criticism such as that which the government and its party have leveled at these normal, regular activities of a political party." The fact is that just as the system has been seeking to maintain an absolute monopoly on the home front, it wanted to do likewise in the case of foreign relations. For 45 years, however, PAN has been trying to "do away with this political vice of a single party system and to turn it into a pluralist, democratic structure."

Gonzalez Schmal showed the list of guests from almost all over the world at the Republican Party Convention. "We did not seek to make nor did we make any ties, because this was not the province of the delegation." It was simply a question of exchanges, closer relations among democratic organizations. The following were some of the main assertions in the interview:

"It is untrue that we are members of the International Republican Cooperation Foundation. There is no such link. We found out about it when we attended the convention. It is similar to the Christian Democrats' Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of the Socialist International, both in Germany. It is going to propagate ideas, not subsidize parties or organizations.

"We have also been linked to the Heritage Foundation. Not true. We learned what it is about because one of its experts on foreign affairs had a role at the convention. We found out that it had conducted a study favorable to conservative political models. That was all.

"We share the principles of political pluralism, a strong society, limited government and a free exercise of rights, with every democratic party in the world, including the Republican Party in the United States."

[Question] I think that the people in power are reacting to the tottering of their political monopoly. What makes PAN think that this is happening?

Bernardo Batiz: Yes, the political monopoly is tottering. We can see this because PAN has won all of the elections in which it has run over the past 2 or 3 years. Some of our victories have been acknowledged; we have had to push hard to get others acknowledged, and still others have not been acknowledged, but there is no hiding the obvious fact that the people of Mexico are voting in large numbers for PAN. This is a fact. And we feel that as the party has gained broader domestic acceptance, it has also come to be regarded internationally as a valid partner for dialogue, and the party has decided to take part in and undertake such dialogues, while preserving its ideological and economic independence very clearly and categorically. We do not want nor do we receive aid. We neither ask nor seek it; it has not even been offered to us. We reject any sort of aid, and we also maintain our own ideology, which is set forth very clearly in our principles. These have enabled us to continue as a serious, recognized and credible party in Mexico that, hence, does not have to go looking for propping up overseas.

[Question] Does this exchange of information have to do with political parties, the country or other political parties that do not share the ideology of the International Democratic Union?

Gonzalez Schmal: This is general information on the political situations in all countries of the world, the specific experience of democratic countries and exchanges of ideas.

I am going to give you a complete list of all the ties that PRI and its peripheral organizations have overseas. Many of them are openly subordinate to the decisions and instructions of the Socialist International (see list at end of interview). This monopoly of one party's political relations has projected a distorted image of Mexico. We are regarded as political cannibals in many respects. We are regarded as incapable of achieving democracy; we are regarded as being politically unstructured.

One of the needs that PAN senses in this regard is to publicize the opposite idea. That is to say, Mexico has the ability to save itself, to shake off its political monopoly. There does exist a democratic political structure in free, independent political parties that can be tools for change. Thus, Mexico's image overseas cannot be just of a Durazo or a Lopez-Portillo, as we unfortunately saw on our visit to Dallas. (He holds up several newspapers with stories about Durazo, the Colina del Perro and corruption in PEMEX. One contained a statement by a "Senator Rivapalacio" to the effect that "this regime is destroying itself through the weight of special interests.")

So then, we feel that we have to offset these images of Mexico by providing information on all the positive things, the country's good chances of saving itself, the entire political structure, the struggles, the testimony in favor of democracy, and for this reason we also feel obliged to open up to other countries.

[Question] So you do not belong to the International Democratic Union?

Gonzalez Schmal: That was another lie told about us. Here are the names of the parties that belong to the International Democratic Union. As you can see, the name of National Action is not there. And this was the copy that they gave us right there. We simply became familiar with it, learned that it had been formed and we made contact with some of the delegates there, just as the Christian Democratic International was there too. That was all.

[Question] Now then, PRI has said through several of its lawmakers that it is going to call for an in-depth investigation and, in any event, ask that PAN's registration be canceled because of these links. With the evidence that you have here, don't you plan to do likewise, to ask that PRI's registration be canceled?

Gonzalez Schmal: We have been requesting this for some time, because not only due to its international relations is PRI, by its very nature, not a full-fledged party, because it calls itself a party when it is actually an appendage of the government. Furthermore, its foreign connections violate the Federal Electoral Law because in many respects the party is subordinate to the Socialist International in particular. This is an important point. When someone calls us "sellouts," we

ask: Who has sold out the country to its foreign creditors, who has subordinated the country today to the dictates of the IMF? Who has mortgaged the nation? Who were the people who took money, ill-gotten fortunes out of the country and are living overseas in luxury? Who the is compromising the nation's sovereignty if not the government and its party?

The CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], Fidel Velazquez, as we know, is subject to international guidelines for political behavior. These guidelines have not been totally successful, of course, because we know of one meeting that the CTM attended at which the Socialist International itself denounced mass worker membership in political parties, a policy that the CTM defends. So even inside the Socialist International the CTM is more sectarian and totalitarian than any of the institutions belonging to it.

[Question] Leftwing parties oppose the establishment of a two-party system in Mexico, and PRI is apparently fearful of this...

Batiz: It is fearful because PRI was created to be a single party. Over time it had to settle for being a ruling party, and its biggest worry at present is that it will come up against real and strong competition for power. We feel that the people of Mexico have to decide with their votes whether there should be a two-party system or a broader pluralism in Mexico, because it is the votes of the citizens that give parties greater or lesser strength in a country's politics. We leave it up to the people to Mexico to decide whether they want one, two or many parties. Of course we in PAN are in favor of pluralism being expressed as widely as possibly, but the vote of the people will decide whether two, three or more parties are favored.

[Question] Could you give me your opinion of Mr Reagan's electoral platform?

Gonzalez Schmal: Of course. Here's a copy of the platform. We were very interested in getting to know it. We are analyzing it in depth. It has very important points. As you know, he upholds the principle of limited growth of government. He proposes to halt the rise in the taxes on U.S. citizens and to stimulate all necessary social activity because this will lead to economic growth. On monetary matters, he feels that inflation can be halted and bank interest rates brought down. In short, he makes a series of proposals that seem constructive to me. The results that he cites of his 4-year term show sizable gains for the U.S. economy, in that inflation has fallen to 3.8 percent (last year's figure) and 6½ million jobs have been created over these 4 years, according to them. Interest rates also declined until the last 6 months, when they headed upwards again. It contains a series of important statistics.

Now then, the most important thing to us is U.S. immigration policy and relations with Mexico, in which the platform contains points that we judge to be positive.

It mentions, of course, that the United States naturally reserves control over its borders, but it will always be consistent with the American people's age-old generosity in accepting refugees and people coming to seek opportunities in the United States. They call themselves "the people with the largest worldwide representation," inasmuch as all of the races of the world have come together there. They add that the generosity and hospitality of the United States should spread to other nations that can take in refugees and immigrants, but that in the end it is up to the nationals of each country to resolve their own problems. Nevertheless, they will never cease to be what they have traditionally been, a hospitable nation...

As far as relations with Mexico are concerned, the platform even states that Mexico and Canada are the most important countries for the United States, and they will foster every effort towards good neighborliness and, therefore, interdependence.

These are the points that we regard as most important for Mexico..

[Question] In foreign policy the platform boils down to not allowing communism to make gains in Central America, doesn't it?

Gonzalez Schmal: Well, we're taking a look at it now. It is quite wideranging. Of course their position is that they will encourage all democracies on the continent and that at some point they cannot remain idle in the face of what they regard as a threat to freedom and democracy. Thus, this has to be interpreted as a unbending U.S. stand, in that they in no way will tolerate the traditional menace of the Soviet Union and Cuba. At the convention Reagan even mentioned Grenada in his speech; he said that the people of Grenada had called on the United States and that the United States had gone to rescue Grenada, had brought peace and had left. He added that he had never heard about Cuba calling in the Soviet Union or about the Soviets having left Cuba.

[Question] Does PAN share this view of the threat to South America?

Gonzalez Schmal: We limit ourselves to our efforts here at home. We have to respect the principles of our party. We want democracy. We have no overseas involvement nor will we accept any. We denounce foreign meddling of any stripe, and we will continue to uphold this ideal of independence in the area of national sovereignty and decision-making.

[Question] But you do view communism as a threat, don't you?

Gonzalez Schmal: The immediate threat to the country is the totalitarianism of a single party, a clear-cut trend towards the stratification of society, and the desire to perpetuate the system's dominance over the nation, rather than an ideology.

[Question] Are you going to join this union in the near future?

Gonzalez Schmal: This possibility has not been discussed. This is a matter for the assembly. For the time being we do not feel that it has to be brought up before the assembly...

[Question] You accuse PRI and the CTM of being subordinate to international organizations. What does this subordination consist of?

Gonzalez Schmal: Well, let's recall the link that PRI has had ever since Reyes Heróles went to Bonn to sell out to the Socialist International. And then there was the accord between Gustavo Carvajal and Willy Brandt to create what is known as COPPPAL [Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties] as an arm of the Socialist International on the continent so that it could start taking specific economic measures to promote the Social Democratic model, such as moves towards an education monopoly, more government intervention in the economy and more government control over labor unions.

All of these are guidelines that have arisen from international accords between PRI and its presidents and the Socialist International, and we can clearly see that all of the countries in which the Social Democratic Party is in power are implementing these decisions, which were made at the top echelons of COPPPAL.

[Question] In the event that you decide to join this sort of union, wouldn't such overseas links place you in a subordinate position, as it does other parties?

Gonzalez Schmal: According to the principles and bylaws of these unions and of this union in particular, there is no risk of subordination. Nevertheless, if PAN were to consider membership, we would obviously have to look into any possibility of subordination, which we would reject immediately without any problem, as we have been doing for 45 years.

There are three internationals in the world: the Socialist International, which brings together Social Democrats and which split from the Third Marxist-Leninist International; the Christian Democratic International, and the International Democratic Union, which is the one we are talking about.

[Question] Was it set up by the Republican Party?

Gonzalez Schmal: No, it was set up in London last year, strangely enough in the same city in which the International was founded with Marx... [end of interview]

The Institutional Revolutionary Party has ties with the Socialist International and with COPPPAL, of which it is a member and which is influenced "by pro-Soviet and pro-Castro parties all over the continent.

The Socialist People's Party represents the international communist movement and the World Peace Movement.

The Socialist Workers Party, a Third World group according to PAN, has ties with the PLO.

The Mexican Workers Party is headed by Heberto Castillo, who attended the Tricontinental Meeting in Havana, Cuba and the Latin American Solidarity Organization gathering in the Cuban capital as well.

The PSUM is part of the international communist movement, and its leaders periodically visit the Soviet Union "to receive policy."

The Revolutionary Workers Party belongs to the Fourth International and also represents the Trotskyite line.

8743

CSO: 3248/17

2 DECEMBER GIVEN AS DATE FOR STATE OF MEXICO ELECTION

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Sep 84 pp 4-A, 37-A

[Text] With nine registered political parties and three associations participating, the electoral process has started to replace town hall positions in Yucatan, the State of Mexico and Coahuila, and to elect deputies to the State Congress in the first-name state, in elections wherein PAN [National Action Party] has taken for granted the consolidation of its status as the second-ranking party, and wherein the left will try out alliances that may enable it to act more extensively in the 1985 elections.

In Yucatan, where the elections will be held on 25 November, there is political excitement, because during the second half of next month the registration will start for slates for the mayors' offices and the 13 State Congress seats (there will be five with proportional representation). It is thought that, on this occasion, the strength of National Action will not be so preponderant as in the past, because Governor Victor Cervera Pacheco has amalgamated the scattered PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] forces that were in evidence previously.

It was in Merida, with Victor Manuel Correa Racho, during 1968, that National Action had its most resounding victory.

But some dissatisfaction caused by the flawed PRI selection process in certain town halls (such as Takax and Puerto Progreso) has prompted the blue and white party to capitalize on the disgruntlement and become a threat to the tricolor party.

In the State of Mexico, where the elections will take place on 2 December (just as in Hidalgo and Coahuila), the participating PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico]-PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] leftist alliance and the Socialist Current and Communist Left Unity (UIC) political associations are experimenting with a coalition on this occasion "to give the workers an option to vote for candidates other than those of the bourgeois parties, PRI and PAN, which represent only the interests of the grande bourgeoisie and exploiting bosses, and the regime's mistaken economic policy."

In the neighboring state, the majority of the parties (PAN, PSUM, PPS [Popular Socialist Party], PST [Socialist Workers Party], PDM [Mexican Democratic

Party] and PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution]) have registered candidates for the State Congress, but a large majority were unable to do so for the 121 town halls, because they lack sufficient candidates to form slates for council members. In Naucalpan, one of the most contested municipalities, there is every indication that Astolfo Vicencio Tovar, the PAN state leader, will be the blue and white party candidate; and the majority deputy in PAN, Armando Gordillo, will not be backed by the opposition.

Insofar as Coahuila is concerned, where 38 town hall positions will be replaced, it is obvious that the PRI dissatisfaction and the division caused by the erroneous selection of candidates for the mayors' offices will be a factor of which PAN will take advantage to gain further victories. In Torreon, PAN is supported by the productive sectors, and they started the political campaign months ago. PARM is preparing to win Saltillo with Jorge Masso as a candidate; and in Piedras Negras, Ciudad Acuna (the territory of PSUM's Evaristo Perez Arreola) and Monclova, in PAN hands, they have formed an ideological and partisan mosaic that is worrying the PRI high command.

Blamed for all this is the delegate Carlos Rivera Aceves who, apart from having been accused of putting the most important municipalities up for sale, bears the burden of the defeat suffered last July in Durango at the hands of PAN. This is in addition to the power vacuum that exists in Coahuila, because the governor, Jose de las Fuentes Rodriguez, seems to be rather unconcerned about serving the interests of the majorities. Hence, in Coahuila PRI is in an unfavorable position with respect to the opposition, because the flaws in the selection process have brought about the dispersion of PRI members and internal division, whereas the opposition has become strong.

Carlos Enrique Cantu Rosas, the PARM leader, in predicting victory in that northern state, commented: "There is no doubt that we shall win resounding victories in Coahuila. There is great PARM entrenchment and we shall prove that, just as in the State of Mexico, Hidalgo and Yucatan, we have candidates in all the districts; which shows that we are a national party with sufficient strength. We shall refute our detractors."

2909

CSO: 3248/9

COAHUILA CANDIDATES LEAVE PRI FOR RANKS OF PARM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Sep 84 pp 4-A, 20-A

[From "Political Fronts" Column, by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Text] PRI Orders Expulsions

Carlos Rivera Aceves, the PRI general delegate in Coahuila, has asserted that no resignations have been received from the members of PRI who deserted the party to join others, "but they will be expelled in any event."

He was talking about Jorge Masso Masso and Erasmo Villarreal, who have joined the ranks of PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution]. "In doing so they placed personal interests before the ideals of PRI, which they had always upheld and which had enabled one to become mayor of Ramos Arizpe and the other a federal deputy."

The PRI state leader, Abraham Zepeda Izaguirre, said that his party is not bothered by the departure of a few members "because we need people with real convictions, not political soldiers of fortune."

Cuauhtemoc Ruiz de la Rosa, the PARM state leader, said that "taking advantage of the fact that PRI has strayed from the will of the people, PARM will nominate its finest men in at least 20 municipalities in Coahuila."

In conclusion, he indicated that the doors of PARM would remain open to all those who would like to join its ranks.

8743

CSO: 3248/17

MADERO PREDICTS PAN GUBERNATORIAL VICTORY WITH ROSAS IN SONORA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Sep 84 pp 4-A, 22-A, 36-A

[From "Political Fronts" Column, by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Text] We Will Win in Sonora: Madero

We will win our first governorship in the country's political history in Sonora, asserted the president of the National Action Party (PAN), Pablo Emilio Madero, in condemning the maneuvers that the state's governor, Samuel Ocana Garcia, is engaged in to prevent a PAN victory in the 1985 elections. If he is successful, "it would be dangerous for everyone, not just for that state, because social stability would be shattered."

Madero indicated that the current Sonora governor is amending the Federal Law on Political Organizations and Electoral Processes (LOPPE) as he pleases so that legal sophisms can be used to prevent the PAN candidate, Adalberto Rosas Lopez, from registering. Rosas Lopez, the former mayor of Ciudad Obregon, is accused of bringing false charges, and a campaign of slander has been unleashed against him.

In Hermosillo, Sonora, meanwhile, Adalberto Rosas Lopez was unanimously nominated as PAN's candidate for state governor. He urged the people of Sonora to put forth high-minded efforts "so that our stable institutions cease to be places where corruption, immorality, abuse of power, inefficiency and waste prevail and from which municipal governments are imposed on residents."

More than 1,000 state delegates were in attendance. In accepting the nomination, Rosas pointed out that his political rights are secure, mentioning that out of bad faith or owing to ignorance of the law they have been questioned. He said: "If the government forgets its close and indissoluble relationship with the people, it is undermining the very foundation of its own authority."

He added that if the moral renovation of society does not include an examination of injustice, then "we will see that far from being a human right and moral duty, freedom will be transformed into a

tyrannical ploy to give free rein to unrestrained impulses and appetites, with the resulting harm to others, as we are used to in this apparent democracy."

Closing the meeting in Hermosillo, Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas said that "neither the moral renovation nor revolutionary nationalism will be the answer to the serious crisis that the country is experiencing if the government keeps on sidestepping the political problem by continuing to trample on electoral rights and thus delaying progress towards harmony among the Mexican people."

8743

CSO: 3248/17

EXPROPRIATION OF LOPEZ PORTILLO FAMILY PROPERTIES SOUGHT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 31 Aug 84 p 38-A

[Text] The expropriation of the areas owned by the Federal District Department but in which the sisters of the then President Jose Lopez Portillo built residences during his 6-year term was demanded by German Cabrera Ponton, head of the Lomas de Chapultepec Residents association and the Settlers Union of the Miguel Hidalgo local government agency; real estate which should be turned over for use by museums and libraries.

He claimed that the titles submitted by the Santa Fe Subdivision entity stating that it owns several hectares in the third section of Chapultepec Forest, where the Federal District reclaimed 150,000 square meters last Saturday and Sunday, "are false."

Cabrera Ponton was of the opinion that the submission of illegitimate documents involves crimes that should be punished by imprisonment.

The neighborhood leader expressed assurance that foreign members of certain embassies built on land owned by the DDF are pressuring architect Eduardo Rincon Gallargo, the general secretary for urban development and ecology of the capital government, not to continue the investigation being conducted in this matter.

Nevertheless, he remarked: "We residents organized in the Miguel Hidalgo local government agency back the Federal District Department to continue ahead with its effort to 'clean up' the real estate with illegal construction on land owned by the city government."

He added that there are among other pieces of real estate that should be attached because they contain construction on land owned by the DDF some which belong to prominent individuals in the city.

He noted that, for example, Mr Raul Velasco was given 3 months to vacate the offices at 1435 Reforma, where the International Amateur Soccer Federation (FIFA) also has its headquarters.

He said that the area study made by the capital government authorities stopped at the site of Margarita Lopez Portillo's house, located on federal land, because the ravine was filled in to build the residence.

He observed that there are located in that same section the residences of Refugio Pacheco, widow of Lopez Portillo, and Alicia Lopez Portillo, the mother and sister of the former president of Mexico, respectively.

MEXICO

BRIEFS

PUEBLA: PSUM MEMBERS MURDERED--Tehuacan, Puebla, 25 Sep--Four members of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) were ambushed and shot to death this evening "because of political differences," according to a police chief in the town of San Jose Miahuatlan. Other party members were fatally shot last Friday in the same town, which has a PSUM municipal government. Rafael Nava Montiel, the chief of the State Judicial Police, which is stationed in this city, pointed out that the police has identified the criminals who ambushed Felipe and Antonio Fernandez Valiente, Angel Garcia Baltasar and Nataniel Valladar Garcia. He said that the PSUM members were ambushed and riddled with pistol and shotgun fire as they were arriving in the town of San Jose Miahuatlan, where a long list of people have been slain in political squabbling. There are shootouts all the time in San Jose Miahuatlan, he said, because there are political problems between supporters of various parties, and the current city government is run by the PSUM. Learning of the incident, Public Ministry agent Arturo Melgarejo and second-in-command Juventino Briseno Torrentera mentioned that last Friday PSUM member Herlindo Cabrera was ambushed in the same way and riddled with shotgun and pistol fire. Judicial Police agent Nava Montiel added that the names of the presumed murderers, who have already been identified, are not being released because they are members of PRI and might flee, going on to say that they would be arrested any time now. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Sep 84 pp 5-A, 35-A] 8743

CSO: 3248/17

SLAUGHTERHOUSES SAID TO OPERATE AT 50 PERCENT CAPACITY

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Sep 84 p 12

[Text] The General Directorate for Livestock, of MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], has invited the attention of the JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction] to the urgent need to channel the maximum possible amount of the country's slaughterhouse activity to the industrial slaughterhouses, for a better management of its livestock operations and the full use of its eight slaughterhouses.

This information was released to EL NUEVO DIARIO by Ricardo Coronel Kautz, director of the organization that oversees implementation of the country's livestock policy.

The government official described all the complexities that surround this activity, but indicated that the recommendation is "based on a comprehensive and overall view of the country's livestock problems."

He cautioned that the fundamental problems that must be taken into account in any thorough analysis of the situation cannot be isolated from the production, marketing and export activities that generate foreign currency for the nation.

He pointed out that the proposal to use the industrial slaughterhouses to their fullest capacity would mean putting to good use an infrastructure that cost approximately \$250 million and that today is being used only to 50-percent of capacity, and would provide jobs for 2,600 workers.

It would also enable the recovery of all the slaughterhouse by-products, such as the blood, viscera, hides, tallow and bones, and better monitoring and control of the slaughtering of female animals than is currently taking place in the clandestine slaughterhouses to the detriment of the national livestock renewal effort.

He also indicated that an effort is being made to develop a rational and sustained producer price policy, which will include planned incentives.

The tidying up of this situation is necessary also for its positive effects from the standpoints of obtaining more sanitary meat and enabling a classification of hides according to quality.

Moreover, he pointed out, an increase in the volume of livestock channeled into [authorized] slaughterhouses would provide a basis on which to industrialize the manufacture of meat products.

Expounding on the situation of the nation's livestock herd, Coronel Kautz stated that exact figures are not presently available as to the number of heads of cattle we have. In this regard, he asserted that anyone who makes categorical references as to the number risks being proven wrong.

Nevertheless, he affirmed that, based on the national livestock inventory taken in 1971, to which a number of parameters have been applied, it is possible to deduce that our national herd numbers approximately some 2.3 million to 2.4 million head of cattle.

"If we take into account," he added, "that the percentage of calves weaned is around 38 to 40 percent--that is, that for every 100 able females, 38 to 40 calves are weaned annually, half males, half females--the extraction for meat livestock must not exceed 15 percent."

He indicated that, based on the size of our national herd, 345,000 head of cattle can be slaughtered without adversely affecting our national inventory. He said that industrial and municipal slaughterhouses account for a total of 309,000 head annually, which "means that 36,000 head are actually not being slaughtered and are therefore yielding a net increase in our national herd, or are being sacrificed. I personally believe they are being sacrificed."

He estimated that the slaughter of 309,000 head of cattle in 1984 may be expected to yield some 90 million pounds of meat, on average, of which 60 million pounds can be allocated to domestic consumption.

"If we consider that our historical per capita consumption has been 20 pounds annually, the supply will about meet this demand."

He pointed out that those consumption levels are among the highest in Central America and of many Latin American countries.

He made it clear that the overall supply problem is that the distribution of the inflow throughout the country has grown just as the population has.

"The more you divide up a cake, the smaller the piece each person will get. Since in the past that cake was being divided up among fewer persons, the possibilities of grabbing a bigger piece were greater."

As a result, although the per capita consumption was 20 pounds, the historical fact is that the persons with the higher incomes "consumed everyone else's rations."

"I know concrete cases of high-income people whose families had a per capita consumption of 130 pounds annually; the greater demand generated by improved distribution of the inflow has reduced these levels to 80 pounds and, in some cases, to 60 pounds annually."

He also pointed out that, previously, Managua had been privileged from the standpoint of supply, and that nowadays the regional delegates are exerting unrelenting pressure to ensure the supply of their regions as well.

In conclusion, he said that livestock growth levels are a long-term matter. "It is not a question of planting tomatoes or green peppers, where results are almost immediate."

Bringing improved order to the activity will result in bases on which integrated growth of the livestock industry can be built, he emphasized.

9238

CSO: 3248/8

BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROJECT FOR ATLANTIC COAST ANNOUNCED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Sep 84 p 5

[Text] By year-end 1984, the first phase of the Atlantic Coast Bilingual-Bicultural Project--the feasibility study, the laying out and the organization of a plan designed to open the doors of education to the inhabitants of Regions 1 and 2 of Zelaya--will be well under way.

The distinguishing feature of this project is that, for the first time, children will be able to attend classes conducted in their own native language at the same time that they are being taught Spanish as a second language.

This will fulfill the provisions of Decree 571 relative to the Law on Education in Languages on the Atlantic Coast, which "authorizes the teaching of the curricula in the pre-primary and the first 4 grades of primary schooling in the Miskito and English languages, while education in the Spanish language is being introduced gradually."

The decree, formulated in response to the age-old demand of the region's populations, which have been plunged into backwardness by the successive Liberal and Conservative governments, took form by way of the Literacy in Languages Campaign, the basic objective of which was to impart to the ethnic groups of the Atlantic Coast, first, a mastery of reading and writing in their maternal language, after which they would continue their education under the literacy program in Spanish.

Zelaya Sought to Aid Communities

The first head of government to show interest in seeing the Miskito communities speak Spanish was Gen Jose Santos Zelaya who, after incorporating the Miskito Coast region into Nicaragua, decreed the law providing for its Hispanicization by way of compulsory education in Spanish.

The governments that followed took no further action in the matter until, in a display of demagoguery, Somozaism, in 1975, launched a program to convert the Miskitos culturally by way of the PRODESAR [Rural Areas Development Project]. The promoters of this project enriched themselves with fantastic salaries.

According to a report drawn up by the Ministry of Education, history relates that in the second half of the last century, religious organizations of various denominations concerned themselves to some extent with the cultural development of the Miskito Coast.

Friars, pastors, nuns, deacons, priests and others made great efforts to inculcate education, motivated primarily by the desire to penetrate the indigenous communities by way of religion.

It was they who tried to impart a linguistic configuration to the Miskito language, by compiling elementary grammars and dictionaries which, however, had as their objective the Christianization of the pagan minorities.

A Problem: The Contras

Whereas heretofore it was the despotic governments (whose red and green colors were never distinguishable, one from the other, from the viewpoint of the indigenous peoples of the Atlantic Coast) that deprived that erstwhile remote region of cultural development, in the decade of the 80's the counter-revolutionary forces are trying to revive that policy.

The organization of the Tasba Pri settlement has made it possible to continue the education drive that is now bursting out into the green hills and coniferous regions of the Coast.

The MED [Ministry of Education] took on an arduous task and, after studies, concluded that only through a thorough understanding of the ethnic groupings problem could the basic data needed be obtained to develop an educational plan for the Atlantic Coast.

Under this concept, the project is to be implemented by stages, beginning this year. It is to continue in 1985 on an experimentally applicative basis, with its formal extension scheduled for 1986, which will then encompass the Coast's Miskito, Criollo and Suman ethnical groupings.

Information provided by MED indicates that two technical teams have been set up in the Special Zones to start research and organizational work. These teams are made up of Miskitos and Criollos.

In addition, the new Miskito organization MISATAN [expansion unknown] has included the project in its plan of action. Information also indicates that the educational program is being well received in Zelaya Sur.

JGRN: A Top Priority

The JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction] has placed a top priority on this innovative plan, because it is a concrete response to the needs of the Atlantic Coast communities, which will thus be able to hitch their development to that of the country as a whole.

Offers have also been received from countries and international organizations to help materially and technically in the development of this integrationist effort.

The MED affirms that by the start of the 1985 scholastic year, the experimental stages will have been laid out and those pre-school and first-grade teachers prepared who will take part in the implementation of the Bilingual-Bicultural Educational System program.

The institution will also be able to have ready the study materials in Miskito and Criollo English for the first months of classes, as well as a teaching plan more suited to the requirements of the project. In addition, the strategy to be used in introducing the Spanish-language phase of the program will have been defined.

9238

CSO: 3248/8

STUDENTS MOBILIZED FOR COFFEE, COTTON HARVESTS

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Sep 84 p 14

[Text] A "call to arms" to the students of Nicaragua, to rally to the Third Coffee Battle and the Fourth Cotton Battle by joining the BEP's [Student Production Battalion(s)], was made yesterday by the FES [Federation of Secondary School Students]; the UNEN [National Union of Nicaraguan Students]; and the JS 19 J [19 July Sandinist Youth].

Gustavo Vega, president of the UNEN, stated that the aim is to mobilize 43,783 students "and that the call is therefore being addressed not only to youths but also to their parents, who are asked to encourage their children to take part in this patriotic effort to harvest the cotton and coffee crops together with their brothers in the fields."

He added that the drive has adopted the slogan "Production Rally--The Cubs in Production--With the Motherland Always."

Of the above-mentioned total to be mobilized, 38,785 are to be assigned to the cotton harvest and 5,000 to the coffee harvest.

He explained that the students will be mobilized during the last week in November or the first half of December, and demobilized in February. "We do not want this task to interfere with the normal schedule of classes of our companeros," he said, "but everything depends on the ripening of the coffee."

4.3 Cans Per Picker

Alma Nubia Baltodano, president of the FES, pointed out, for his part, that during a full day's work each member of a brigade will contribute to our country \$666.25 and an average of 4.3 cans of coffee beans.

He said that each member of a brigade will be equipped with: military boots or heavy-duty work shoes, heavy-duty straps or military belts, a mattress or hammock, spoon, plate and drinking glass. There will also be medicines such as antibiotics and anti-diarrhea medications, and that, for recreational

purposes, each picker will be permitted to take along a radio, a guitar or a board game. He also pointed out the importance of their taking along a notebook, pen and pencil set, and letter envelopes.

He indicated that there will be individual and collective contests, "enabling the companeros who excel in their tasks to serve as examples to the others."

In conclusion, Alma Nubia Baltodano announced the composition of the National Headquarters Staff of the Rally, as follows: Gustavo Vega, president of the UNEN; Pedro Hurtado, vice coordinator general of JS 19 J; and herself.

9238

CSO: 3248/8

MANAGUANS' INSULATION FROM WAR NOTED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 12 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial: "To Combat Lack of Labor Discipline"]

[Text] At the Third National Assembly of Revolutionary Trade Unions which has just been held in this capital, labor leaders recognized that production levels cannot be raised except on the basis of a conscious, dynamic and aggressive labor discipline.

Certainly, raising production and productivity at work must be a constant factor for the whole working class because only in that way is it possible to strengthen our economy and maintain the subsistence levels of the working people and, above all, to respond energetically to the needs of the war fronts from the active rearguard.

In that sense, all the workers in the country from a class point of view must be the first to become deeply convinced that we are in a country at war, in a Nicaragua that is confronting with serious difficulties the military aggression imposed on us by imperialism, and that in that context, it is necessary to flex every muscle to increase the levels of productivity so that the revolutionary state may have the resources to defend the homeland, naturally without neglecting basic services to the people.

To keep in mind especially that in the final analysis what our heroic armed forces are defending is not only the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country but basically what they are defending to the last consequences is revolutionary power, that is, popular power, the political and social gains achieved by the working class.

In this connection, it must be pointed out that in Managua and in other cities of the country there is only talk about the war and--even though we have dealt heavy blows against the enemy, we bury a fallen fighter almost every day--the effects of that criminal war that the Reagan administration has prescribed for us do not seem to be felt very much; that is, that in those urban centers we are living in apparent tranquillity.

In other words, that in Managua and in other cities, the people are living tranquilly at the expense of those who are fighting aggression on the frontiers and in the mountains with revolutionary ardor and patriotism; and included in that tranquillity are the work centers, the thousands of workers who for various reasons have not been mobilized to the war fronts.

The latter especially, but all the workers in general who work normally in the cities, therefore, must become aware of the war situation in which we are living and of the imperative need to comply faithfully with the policy of labor discipline; that is, to combat by all means sluggishness, shirking on the job, get-togethers, "I'm all right" attitudes, and everything that tends to lower productivity at each work place, or in each factory, or in farm labors.

It is true that with the revolution the workers won the right to a better life and the right to recreation and rest, but it is necessary to become aware that we are not living in a normal situation, that we are waging a battle for our freedom, and that the organized working class can only have the moral authority to formulate demands on the revolution if above all it offers all of its strength in difficult moments such as those we are now facing.

8711

CSO: 3248/7

BRIEFS

BAKERS' UNION CONTRACT--Some 8,000 workers of the baking sub-branch at the national level will benefit from the wage contract signed yesterday with the participation of delegates of the Ministry of Industries, of labor and of the bakers. "What was done was to level out the wage scale of the bakery workers. In this case, a baker or mixer will get a basic salary of 3,120 cordobas a month, while the bakery worker will get a salary of 2,830 cordobas," declared Julio Hernandez Diaz, secretary general of the Bakers' Union of Managua. He added that the negotiations leading to the signing of this agreement began in April but due to lack of a correct methodology setbacks occurred which delayed the signing of that agreement. The union official asserted that seven companies at the national level as well as some 520 bakeries in Managua will benefit from the signing of the agreement. [Text] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 84 p 4] 8711

AFRICAN PALM PROJECT--Kukra-Hill, Zelaya Sur--The African palm planting project being undertaken by the government in the Leonel Rugama State Production Unit is facing a lack of manpower problem. Nevertheless, the workers plan to fulfill the planting of 550 hectares by the end of October. To date, the workers have sown 300 hectares and at the same time have received the support of the members of the Student Production Battalions (BEP's) of Bluefields, who are in charge of taking the seedlings from the seed-beds to the planting fields. There are 450 farm workers permanently working on the African palm project together with 40 of the 72 heads of families organized in cooperatives who work on the project. These fraternal workers earn an average wage of 4,000 to 4,500 cordobas per month in the different activities required by the cultivation of the oil palm. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Sep 84 p 7] 8711

CSO: 3248/7

POLITICAL PROGRAMS OF PARTIES CONTRASTED

Lima PERU ECONOMICO in Spanish Sep 84 pp 4-6

[Text] For the 1980 elections, the platforms were very diverse. The American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA), for example, prepared a detailed and redundant document with sometimes contradictory objectives, the fruit of a considerable effort by too many people without any organizational leadership. The Popular Christian Party (PPC), on the other hand, hired—"technicians are rented," it is said—a cadre of skilled professionals, including Richard Webb, who came especially from Washington, to produce a document using the latest terminology, which flowed more smoothly and read more coherently than the others. Its incipient party structure, however, prevented it from making a detailed diagnosis at the local and regional level. The groups of the left, because they did not present a united front, placed more emphasis on their own ideological confrontation than on formulating specific programs. At Popular Action (AP), Manuel Ulloa, in a not very fruitful display of improvisation, gathered the heterogeneous conclusions of his party's various working committees during a weekend retreat to give them a patina of coherence.

This was not necessary, however. Fernando Belaunde was elected president as a function not of his party's proposed plan of action, but of the hope he managed to spark among the people. For this reason, rather than reproaching him for not meeting specific promises in the platform—aside from that of providing 1 million jobs, there weren't many—history will record his second administration as "the 5 years of dashed hopes."

The present situation, as the Aprista Party of Peru (PAP) has recorded it in a recent document, is quite dramatic: "1) Inflation has not declined. 2) Production has not been reactivated. 3) The 1 million jobs were not created. 4) Remunerations have fallen. 5) Public finances have not been put in order." PAP's vociferous charges number 12 in all; it does not take much imagination, however, to extend this rather unpoetic litany almost indefinitely. More difficult, on the other hand, is a precise assessment of the impact of those non-government factors (such as the world recession, the international financial crisis, natural disasters, terrorism, the drug traffic and institutional weakening) on the severe plight Peru is suffering today.

So far not much is known about the platforms of the political parties for 1985. Part of the reason is that there is a curious game going on among them to claim that they have it ready without showing it.

On the same day that Javier Alva Orlandini announced his candidacy, for example, Popular Action stated that it already had its platform. Fernando Schwalb appeared on TV looking very serious, reviewing a document of which only the cover has been seen, depicting Fernando Belaunde Terry embracing Javier Alva Orlandini. Its contents are still a mystery. An influential AP senator explained in this regard that the only thing available at this time is a very preliminary draft. This could be due to the fact that party officials have very little time—Minister Valentin Paniagua is the head of the platform committee—and to the difficulty of presenting new ideas without contradicting the current administration.

In APRA, on the other hand, a large committee headed by Luis Alva Castro has been working on the platform for 2 years. A political analyst commented jokingly, "right now there is no shortage of technicians at PAP; rather, there is a surplus: professionals of the most diverse backgrounds are now proclaiming themselves Apristas forever." After the recent press conference at which Luis Alva announced the release of the plan so that the nation could debate it, the document was distributed only among a few members of the committee, which would indicate that some "final revisions" are still in order before Alva makes his speech before the Peruvian Institute of Business Administration (IPAE) on Thursday 6 September.

In the PPC, Ivan Rivera is in charge of this task. Five years ago he was a theorist of the Chicago School, and now, in addition, he is an experienced former minister. Backed up by the conceptual framework of his team of young economists, and the more mature counterweight of Celso Sotomarino, he is trying to adapt the document prepared in 1980 to today's context. Luis Bedoya is aware that the Peru of 1985 will not elect a rightist. Therefore, to increase his chances, he will try to abandon that stance and move toward the center, even in his platform.

The more lucid sector of the United Left (IU), on the other hand, knows that Peru will not lean toward the other extreme of the spectrum, either. For this reason, the platform that Alfonso Barrantes has commissioned Catholic University Professor Javier Iguiniz to coordinate, will not be noted for its radicalism. Barrantes will undoubtedly have to fight hard to maintain that position, however.

Of the remaining parties, the only one that has published anything is the Francisco Morales Bermudez (FMB) Front. The plan that has been presented (coordinated by retired Gen Oscar Molina, former chief of the Advisory Committee of the Presidency during the days of the Tupac Amaru Plan) contains a series of generalities that nevertheless include some significant points regarding the structure of the state: unification of Parliament in a single house, creation of a social congress made up of the intermediate organizations, creation of a ministry of commerce, regionalization based on the current departments, etc.

The first thing that comes to mind when the drafts of the various platforms are compared is the fact that they share a number of common objectives. There is a consensus, for example, on the need to give top priority to the development of the agrarian sector, to promote non-traditional exports, to generate more employment, to combat corruption and tax evasion, to engage in concerted planning with the productive sectors, and to decentralize the country.

The possibility of coordination is diluted considerably, however, when it comes down to specific policies. Sometimes, in agriculture for example, there are differences in emphasis: The PAP gives priority to the financial problem; the PPC stresses the shortage of water on the coast; and the IU emphasizes the problems of the peasant communities in the mountains. In other areas, such as the generation of employment, there are more serious discrepancies: Ivan Rivera, for example, maintains that a first step toward this goal would be to "flexibilize" legislation on labor stability, in accordance with the ILO pact. The other parties oppose this position, favoring the generation of employment through the development of small infrastructure projects, especially in rural areas. It should be noted, however, that even in the IU there are those who advocate that the labor stability law be made more flexible. For example, one of the coordinators of the industrial policy, Fernando Villaran, proposes as an alternative that an unemployment insurance plan be devised to give the jobless worker a minimum amount of capital and the possibility of obtaining a loan to enable him to start a small business.

With regard to coordinated planning, the differences are methodological in nature. The PAP insists on the Economic Congress, which it has been proposing for 50 years; the National Institute of Planning (INP) would serve as its technical secretariat. Andres Townsend, for his part, proposes the establishment of a Social Economic Council similar to what several Western European countries have. Also similar is the Social Congress advocated by the Front, to the extent that it is given only consultative and initiative powers. Significantly, the PPC and the IU share a jaundiced view of institutional formulas for coordination. Both contend that this can be achieved directly with the productive sectors, although--predictably--the IU attributes a much smaller role than the PPC to the market mechanisms. Javier Iguiniz explains it thus: "We are not thinking about massive expropriations; (rather) we plan to maintain a pluralistic and mixed system, but one adapted to social ends. This would involve, for example, the coordination of prices and production between the state and the principal companies."

Another major difference is found in the area of the foreign debt. Although there is a consensus that it cannot be paid off entirely, the PAP and the PPC lean toward continuing to negotiate revisions until a long-term solution can be found in which the creditor banks assume part of the losses. The IU, in contrast, favors a break with the IMF and the application of a selective moratorium.

The greatest disagreement, however, can be found in short-term policies to deal with the economic crisis. In the case of the PAP, some experts on its committee prefer to stimulate a reactivation, even at the risk of greater inflation. Gustavo Saberbein, for example, an independent technician who is a member of the APRA platform committee, explains this position as follows:

"For us, the country is undergoing an inflation of costs. Therefore, if on the one hand financial and exchange pressures on businesses' costs are reduced, and on the other hand wages are improved to step up demand, the economy can be reactivated while combatting inflation at the same time." It is not very clear, however, how an external balance and greater internal savings can be achieved that way. Although the PPC agrees with the PAP that more credit should be given to the private sector, it understands that the only way to achieve a selective reactivation of production and a decline in inflation is to cut the fiscal deficit and to charge positive interest rates in real terms, to avoid significant speculation. The IU, finally, is designing a program of selective reactivation and inflation control whose primary components are price and exchange controls, tax reform, and "concerted programs for popular survival."

8926

CSO: 3348/2

GOVERNMENT, JNT REMAIN AT LOGGERHEADS IN WAGE NEGOTIATIONS

Chambers on 'Mob Rule'

Port-of-Spain THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] The ruling People's National Movement (PNM) must be very careful not to do anything which might smack of support for mob rule. Prime Minister George Chambers made this point at the PNM Women's League annual conference at the Valsayn Teachers' College on Sunday morning. He reiterated that Government would not tolerate mob rule, particularly in the area of industrial relations.

Mr Chambers, delivering the main address to a packed hall, stressed that he did not want it to appear he was seeking to influence the public or private sector negotiations. He said it was a fact that over the last eight years the salary scale in this country had moved upward dramatically.

Stressing that he was not saying anything to interfere with lawful negotiations Mr Chambers, who spoke in his capacity as Political Leader of the PNM, said the recognition by Government of the right of dissent was on national accord. Anybody with any dissatisfaction was free to express that dissatisfaction within the law.

"Within recent times--and I am sure I speak for a lot of the national community--there has been a tendency to seek to use force, not only to demonstrate or to get across the point of view of a few, but that force is now being used on people themselves who are being represented in order to suppress their right of dissent.

"In other words, if there are 100 of us or the 1,000 of us here in this room, in one union, and 800 of the 1,000 want to do something, a small group in the 200 terrorising the 800 to get them not to agree...

"So in other words while the Government recognises the right to dissent and the right to unionise certain people exercising that right are not allowing the people for whom they speak to also exercise that right.

"Now that cannot be right. In addition to that, there has been a growing tendency to invade private property."

He said if anyone wished to go around Woodford Square when Parliament was in session, that person was free to do that but once the Parliament was in session, nobody has the right to invade the Parliament and interfere with its proceedings. That cannot be allowed.

Not So Hostile

"Also, if you were running a little business and have private property, you also have equal protection under the Constitution.

"So that if somebody tells you they want 900 percent and you are negotiating and you offer 10 percent, you cannot become so angry over the fact that he offered you 10 percent that you want to mash up his business place. We cannot allow that."

In pursuit of the policies of the ruling party, that pursuit rested with the Government and the party must have an interest in ensuring that when as a Government the Constitution of the country was upheld, that gave nobody the right to "come and break a glass window in my house, or to invade my lawn, or to abuse my wife or my daughter, or my relatives."

The Prime Minister stressed: "We have to be very, very, very careful that as a party we do nothing, encourage nothing or support anything which smacks of mob rule. We cannot, if you have a case there is the law. Follow it.

"We have the law...and even the law which we enacted in respect of the control of industrial disputes we enact it after full consultation with all parties concerned.

"So that you agree that this is the way to go. You cannot become so angry, so hostile, that you damage your own reputation as a trade union of respect by breaking the law.

"We cannot afford mob rule and I spoke about it in my Independence message and I end with it before the Women's League. My Government would not sit idly by and allow mob rule to overtake the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago."

The Prime Ministers also spoke about the important role the League would have to play in the November elections of the Tobago House of Assembly.

He said:

"The appropriate time will soon come. It appears to me Madam Chairman, that in respect of the Tobago elections, the Women's League is going to have a particularly important role to play.

Descend on Tobago

"The fruits of your labour in Tobago would best be realised, in my respectful view, if the League as a League cutting across all constituency boundaries in Trinidad, unites in its efforts, descend upon Tobago and discharge that responsibility in a united and cogent way." (Applause).

Mr Chambers, who also expressed concern about the party's financial structure, drew reference to the situation where the party had to get 75 percent of its budget for this month's annual convention in Tobago from the Donations Committee, which meant that the party was making inroads into funds earmarked for other purposes.

With respect to the proposed NPW Mr Chambers conceded it was an extremely difficult thing to manage price control and the intention of the NPW was to supplement the price control machinery, but placing the responsibility for how consumers spent their money on the taxpayers themselves.

Items to come under the aegis of the NPW: meat, fish, cereals, milk, eggs, oils and fats, cheese, potatoes, sugar, coffee, tea, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, women's clothing, shoes, dried salted fish, building materials, household furniture, garbage bags and medications.

Taxi fares and car parts would also be considered as well as textbooks, school uniforms and sporting items.

"We are not telling you not to buy. We are just telling you what it cost for these items to land in Trinidad and Tobago on a regular and systematic basis."

Senator Muriel Green, Minister of Information, as chairman of the League, said in her report: "The League has done much for the personal development of its members. It has done much in the PNM and for the PNM.

"It would appear, however, that basking in the light of our past activities and achievements we have become complacent. Some even describe us as passive. Other say we are smug and clannish.

"Let no one--I repeat none--attempt to belittle our achievements."

Charge Against JNT

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 23 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Inconvenience citizens, deprive them of their daily needs so that they would be encouraged to urge Government to agree on wages and other terms demanded by public service associations and unions.

That is the intention of the "work-to-rule" strategy and other actions organised by the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) which represents most public servants, according to a statement yesterday by the Government's negotiators.

Despite all the publicity given during the prolonged dispute, the public isn't aware of what these demands by the JNT entail...nor the extent of Government's responsibility.

For instance, apart from the 65,000 salaried people in the public service, the teachers and firemen and policemen, etc., there are more than that number working on a daily and hourly-paid basis.

More than half of the country's revenue this year is estimated to go into the pockets of Government employees. That is \$3,644.2 million or 51.0 percent of the 1984 Estimated Total Current Revenue.

If apart from the variety of demands made by the JNT, the Government agrees merely to the straight percentage increase of 12 to 15 percent from this year, \$500 million will have to be found for public service and statutory authorities workers.

The JNT wants a semi-annual indexation of salaries based on increases in the Index of Retail Prices at the end of June last, this December and at six-monthly periods ending in December 1985.

Should this be accepted and extended logically to hourly and daily-paid workers, then another \$160 million must be found for payments during the July to December, 1984, period.

But where will the money come from? This country is not doing well in regional markets, austerity programmes are a worldwide issue, even in industrialised countries there are high levels of unemployment.

The Government statement pointed out that while the JNT has been calling for what it describes as a "reasonable offer designed to maintain the standard of living" of Government workers, the Government's six percent offer is designed to allow the public service to live within its means.

The alternative will be increased taxation, loss of jobs and rapidly increasing prices, general hardship and possible instability.

"Every one percent increase in salaries and wages for public employees will add \$36 million in 1984," says the Government team.

In any event, about 90 percent of salaried workers, because of annual increments above any negotiated percentage pay rises, get an average three percent wage hike every year.

Government Statement

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 23 Sep 84 p 15

[Advertisement]

[Text] Advertisement

Statement by the Government's Negotiating Team on Public Service Negotiations

In recent weeks, there has been considerable publicity given to Public Service Pay negotiations in the press and other news media in the wake of decisions taken by the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) to organise a variety of protest actions by public servants, calculated to pressure the Government's Team into making what has been described as a reasonable offer designed to maintain the standard of living of these employees.

2. Protest action organised by the Association/Unions to date include picketing of the office of the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), 'working to rule' and wearing of red ribbons. In this respect, the intention of what has been termed 'work-to-rule' is clearly to impose on the general public myriad inconveniences and deprivation which, it is the hope of the JNT, would encourage the general population to call on the Government to agree to the terms demanded by the Associations/Unions.

3. Unfortunately, the overall picture that has emerged concerning the state of these negotiations and the points at issue has, despite extensive coverage in the media, been incomplete and misleading. It is, therefore, necessary at this stage to present the Nation with a clear view of the facts.

4. The salary proposals of the JNT are as follows:

(a) An Agreement for two (2) years;

(b) The consolidation of the cost-of-living allowance accrued to the end of 1983 (i.e. \$213.20) with basic salary, before the application of any agreed salary increases for 1984 and beyond;

(c) (i) Extension of existing salary scales by 3 incremental points that would raise the maximum salary for the various jobs by amounts ranging from \$127 per month to \$99 per month for public officers in Salary Ranges up to and including Salary Range 59 (which includes posts such as Civil Engineer II, Architect II, Accountant IV);

(ii) An initial adjustment which would increase by \$212 per month the salaries of all public officers in Salary Range 60 and above;

(d) (i) With effect from January 1, 1984, a 15% increase for public officers in Salary Range 59 and lower, super-imposed on the adjustments outlined at (b) and (c) above;

(ii) With effect from January 1, 1984, an increase of 12% for those employees in Salary Range 60 and above, super-imposed on the adjustments outlined at (b) and (c) above;

(e) A further 8% increase for all employees with effect from January 1, 1985; and

(f) The indexation of salaries by way of semi-annual percentage increases equal to the percentage increase in the Index of Retail Prices at the termination of the six-month periods ending June 30, 1984, December 31, 1984, June 30, 1985 and December 31, 1985.

5. In addition to the salary proposals set out above, individual Associations/Unions have submitted further proposals involving salary increases. For example, it has been advanced that officers who have reached their final promotional post should automatically receive the maximum salary of their new salary scale. Moreover, the Employer has been presented with numerous

proposals for the revision of fringe benefits and many of these incorporate indexation as well.

6. Some aspects of the proposals of the Associations/Unions cannot be costed with any degree of precision but the Government's Negotiating Team has emphasised that if the Government were to agree merely to the straight percentage increases of 12% and 15% proposed by the organisations for 1984, it would become necessary to find some \$500 million to meet the increased cost of salaries and wages in the Public Service and Statutory Authorities for 1984. If, in addition, indexation of salaries was accepted for the Public Service (and extended logically to the hourly and daily-rated employees), the additional cost would be at least \$160.0m in respect of the wider Public Service for the period July-December, 1984.

7. The simple fact is that the Public Sector Budget cannot afford increases in manpower costs the like of which the Association/Unions have demanded. There are some 65,000 salaried employees in the Civil Service, Teaching Service, Protective Services, Statutory Authorities and Similar Bodies. An even greater number of hourly and daily-rated workers are also employed in these arms of Government. It is estimated that at current wage and salary rates personnel expenditure in respect of public officers and hourly and daily-rated workers of the Central Government together with similar expenditure for other agencies of Government which are entirely or heavily financed out of the Consolidated Fund would amount to \$3,644.2m or 51.2% of estimated Total Current Revenue for 1984.

8. There must be a recognition that in addition to salaries and wages, Government has many inescapable commitments such as Old Age Pensions and other School Assistance--\$238.5m; School Feeding Programme--\$53.0m; Grants for School Books and Uniforms--\$52.4m; Contribution to the recurrent expenditure of the University of the West Indies--\$73.7m; Pensions and Gratuities to retired public servants and other public employees--\$209.4m; Grants to operating costs of assisted primary and secondary schools--\$22.0m; Subsidies of basic commodities--\$81.5m; subsidisation of travel by the airbridge and coastal steamer--\$84.6m.

7. In the short-term, there is little scope for pruning recurrent expenditure without placing hardships on the population although in the longer term, there is every reason to believe that a great deal can be achieved by reforms in systems and procedures, technological change and improvements in productivity.

10. Efforts have been made to contain the growth of this recurrent expenditure. It will be recalled that the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning in his 1984 Budget Speech announced that:

"Every Government Ministry, Department, Statutory Board, Municipality, Local Authority, State Enterprise and the Tobago House of Assembly will in 1984 have to accept a cut in its budget request."

11. Despite this stringency, the inescapable fact is that recurrent expenditure by the Central Government, including transfers and subsidies, and loans and grants to Statutory Authorities, appropriate some 97.0% of Total Current

Revenue even before allowance is made for any wage and salary increases. Every 1% increase in salaries and wages for public employees will add \$36.0m in 1984.

12. It has to be remembered as well that some 90% of the salaried employees are on salary scales and qualify for increases over and above any negotiated percentage increases in pay, in the form of annual increments (of the order of 3% in most cases). Thus, even in the absence of a general pay increase, a very large proportion of the Public Service receives salary increases of approximately 3% every year.

13. The overall economic environment which prevails cannot support any expectation of a significant improvement in revenue over the next three years or so. Adverse market conditions exist for Petroleum and the massive foreign debt owed by Third World countries continues to be a major problem facing the world community, threatening instability and monopolising the resources of the multilateral lending agencies. Austerity programmes are widespread, high levels of unemployment persist in the industrialised countries despite signs of recovery; protectionism has re-surfaced and high interest rates are the order of the day. In regional markets, this country continues to be uncompetitive, partly on account of the level of wages and salaries relative to productivity.

14. Having regard to all these considerations, the Government sees job security as its primary objective during this period of adjustment. The Government's negotiating team has repeatedly emphasised that there is really no reasonable prospect of maintaining employment levels if the Government were to accept a commitment to increase salaries either in the way the JNT has proposed or indeed, by substantial pay increases.

15. The offer of a six percent increase represents a responsible counter-proposal, given the financial and economic constraints with which the Public Sector and the entire country are faced. The response is designed to allow the Public Service to live within its means. The inevitable alternatives will be increased taxation; reduction in employment and forced expansion of the money supply which would result in rapidly increasing prices, all or any of which will undoubtedly produce hardships and are likely to cause instability which can only harm all of us, but particularly wage and salary earners. This result is avoidable but will demand on all sides prudence and a measure of realism.

CSO: 3298/012

SARJEANT REPORT URGES MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR PNM UNIT

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

THE LEGISLATIVE Committee of the People's National Movement would take a more active part in decision making and policy formation of the party and consequently the government if the recommendations of the Sarjeant Report on the role and function of the committee are adopted by the party.

The Legislative Committee of the PNM met last night to discuss the report drawn up by a committee under Port of Spain Mayor Stevenson Sarjeant. The Legislative Committee is made up of members of both houses of Parliament as well as members of local government bodies.

The EXPRESS understands that no changes were recommended in the constitution of the committee but the report indicated the Standing Orders should be reviewed. It was felt, said a source, that whoever drafted the constitution for the committee, wished that it be not constricted by formalities.

Among the recommendations was that matters of local and international importance be aired freely among members of the committee before presented in Parliament or at city, borough or county council level. The body should be used as a think tank and a forum for regular exchanges among the elected representatives of the party, the source added.

Thus what would be achieved, he added, would be a synchronisation of the efforts at the party at all levels. A further plus, he added, would be a broadening of the participatory process in decision making and not as it operates at present from the Cabinet level.

The source added the committee would then become at least equal in status to the General Council and the Women's League. Another source disclosed that the committee had lost some of its status due to conflicts which developed between members of Parliament and local government representatives at the meetings.

CSO: 3298/012

BOTH IMPORTS, EXPORTS INVOLVING CARICOM SHOW DECLINE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Sep 84 p 20

[Text]

THE COUNTRY's total trade of \$156.4 million under the CARICOM agreement was 24.4 per cent lower than that of a year earlier, said the Central Bank's Quarterly Economic Bulletin for the second quarter of the year.

The deficit recorded for the period was \$31.2 million, significantly

lower than the deficit of \$66.8 million of a year earlier, but stood in contrast to the surplus of \$65.8 million earned in the corresponding four-month period of 1982, said the Bulletin.

"Although both exports and imports fell in the period, imports valued at \$93.8 million declined by a larger margin (31.4 per cent) than exports (10.6 per cent).

"The non-oil deficit in the first four months of the year fell to \$71.3 million from \$112.4 million in the corresponding period for last year."

According to the Central Bank publication, the large deficits which Trinidad and Tobago incurred with Barbados

and Jamaica during the period were in contrast to the surpluses achieved with six other CARICOM member countries including Guyana.

"The trade deficit with Barbados deteriorated to \$19.1 million from \$18.5 million a year earlier with a decline in exports of almost 50 per cent.

"The deficit of \$18.1 million with Jamaica was marginally lower than that with Barbados but represented a considerable improvement on the deficit of \$37.3 million in the first four months of 1983.

"Imports from Jamaica fell sharply from \$47.1 million in the first four months of 1983 to \$25.5 million while exports fell to \$7.4 million.

"The surplus of \$12.9 million with Guyana represented a three-fold increase on the surplus in the corresponding period of 1983."

The Bulletin added that the petroleum products accounted for 77 per cent of the latter increase.

CHAMBERS DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHORTAGES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 84 p 40

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers has denied suggestions that food shortages have been brought about because of Government's reluctance to release foreign exchange.

Speaking at yesterday's PNM Women's League Conference at the Valsayn Teacher Training College Chambers quoted statistics on a range of items which he said indicated that if shortages existed the blame could not be laid at the door of the Central Bank.

For the importation of onions, butter, and potatoes, the Government had released as much or even more foreign exchange than for the comparable period last year.

To pay for the importation of onions Government had released \$8 million in 1983, whereas it had released \$4.6 million up to June 1984. By December 1984 it expects to have released \$9.2 million.

For butter Government released \$7 million for all of 1983 and up to June 1984 it had released \$8 million. In 1983 Government had approved \$7 million for potatoes and just about half of that up to June 1984.

"Clearly, it isn't a question of insufficient ECO forms released," Chambers remarked. He said that as he had no intention of being controversial he would leave it up to his audience to decide where the fault lay.

On the question of rice imports Chambers revealed that the Trinidad and Tobago Government had worked out a special arrangement with the Government of Guyana whereby no foreign exchange would be released but instead Trinidad and Tobago would give Guyana credit on its substantial debt. Rice shippers in Guyana would be in turn paid by their Government in Guyanese dollars.

As a consequence of this arrangement the Central Bank had had to release less money for the purchase of rice outside the region. Apart from this, rice had been held up in boats anchored in the stream, for reasons which the Prime Minister did not make clear but he indicated that questions of increase in "demurrage" or "overtime" might be involved.

Chambers said that Trinidad and Tobago had been importing rice from Guyana for a long time and to the best of his knowledge there had been no complaints about it.

He ascribed the country's newly acquired exotic tastes in rice to an influx of oil dollars. He reiterated government's commitment to foreign exchange budgeting as a means of maintaining the country's economic position.

On a humorous note Chambers noted that on looking around his audience he wanted to suggest that too much rice was not good for them. "I'm not saying you're fat," the Prime Minister told the ladies. He, nevertheless, suggested that in place of rice they eat more vegetables.

CSO: 3298/012

RICE FARMERS RAP DEBT-PAYMENT DEAL WITH GUYANA

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 12 Sep 84 p 56

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

FOUR thousand rice farmers in south Trinidad yesterday accused Prime Minister George Chambers of "putting the last nail in the coffin" of the rice industry by allowing Guyana to repay with rice a \$223 million debt.

Trinidad Islandwide Rice Growers Association (TIRGA) president, Chaitram Gayah, said that the arrangement between Chambers and the Burnham administration had been calculated to destroy "once and for all" the local rice industry. Gayah who was accompanied by general secretary Surujdeo Mangroo and a delegation of

farmers, spoke to the EXPRESS San Fernando Desk.

He said the decision of the government to allow the rice company to remain inoperative was further proof that the rice industry had no place in the government agricultural plan. Gayah said that government had threatened to remove the subsidy of 20 cents on rice but was prepared to subsidise the Guyanese rice growers.

He noted that the present price of 89 cents per pound of paddy was uneconomical for farmers and if the price was reduced to 69 cents, "that is without the subsidy," the industry would collapse. The farmers said that \$1.20 per lb of paddy would be economical for them.

At the PNM Women's League annual confer-

ence at Valsayn Teachers College, last weekend, Chambers announced Guyana would repay part of her \$223m debt in rice. And Gayah asked, "What will happen when Guyana is cleared?" The association also wanted to know what will happen to the rice mill if the rice industry was destroyed. Gayah also wanted to know whether the Central Marketing Agency (CMA) would still purchase farmers' rice. Gayah said the farmers also wanted to know what the government would do with the rice when the rice company was disbanded.

There are about 5,000 acres of rice under cultivation in south and central Trinidad. Farmers produce about nine million pounds of rice annually; the consumer demand is around 90 million pounds annually.

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO MAKE COUNTRY CITRUS EXPORTER AGAIN

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 5 Sep 84 p 37

[Text]

THE Ministry of Agriculture is aiming to make Trinidad and Tobago again an exporter of citrus and citrus products and save some \$20 million now spent on the import of these products, according to Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production.

Mohammed outlined his ministry's intentions at the formal opening of the Second National Symposium for Citrus Growers in Trinidad and Tobago last Tuesday at the Central Experiment Station, Centeno.

In his address which was read by Mannie Dookeran, acting Chief Technical Officer of the Agriculture Ministry, Mohammed said his ministry wanted to place on record its gratitude and appreciation of the significant contributions being made by farmers and officers alike to the rejuvenation of the country's citrus industry.

He said that 24 years ago, Trinidad and Tobago recorded its peak in citrus production, processing a total of one million crates of citrus per year, 75 per cent of which was exported.

"At this time also, the segment section of the Co-operative Citrus Growers Association

Processing Plant alone provided employment for 500 female workers," he added. "Today, this section is no longer operative."

"Today, we import about \$20 million worth of fruit juices of which citrus comprises a very significant proportion," he added. "In addition, the price of a fresh orange fetches as high as two dollars when available."

The decline began precipitously in 1966 with "phenomenal fruit drop" in the field as a result of prolonged drought and poor prices in the United Kingdom market.

This was followed by another severe drought in 1973 which wreaked havoc on all agricultural enterprises, according to the minister.

In that year, he added, the government came to the rescue of the citrus farmers by providing money to Co-operative Citrus Growers Association (CCGA) to meet payment to farmers in respect of the guaranteed price of citrus.

By 1975, he said, the loss was too high and most growers sold fruit on the open market.

He said that since the industry was geared for export markets with only an ancillary local consumption, investors were

reluctant to continue with citrus production.

"The effect of decreasing purchasing of fresh fruit by the Co-operative was reflected in the decreasing production of juices from fresh fruit while the production of reconstituted juices by both the Co-operative and Nestle had been increasing rapidly from 11 million litres in 1977 to 20 million litres in 1981 to fill the local needs," he added.

Mohammed said that the largest supplier of concentrate orange juice at present was Belize, but up to 1981 imports from Jamaica had been increased from 384,000 litres in 1979 to 931,000 litres. Import prices had not changed much since 1978 and averaged between \$2.50 to \$3.00 per litre.

He said the 1981/82 crop yielded a total of 43,000 crates received at CCGA, a mere 4.5 per cent of the one million crates produced 20 years ago.

The 1982/83 crop showed an increase to 65,000 crates.

"In terms of litres in 1981 our domestic production was 2,081,453 litres, but in the same year we imported 12.5

million litres of concentrate juices.

"In 1982, our domestic production was 845,653 litres but imports were in the vicinity of 20.2 million litres. In terms of foreign exchange, this represents a figure of approximately \$18.3 million in 1982 and \$17.6 million in 1983.

Mohammed said "this very unsatisfactory state of the citrus industry"

may be attributed to several factors, including declining production due to the abandonment of farms, decreased harvesting due to the unavailability of labour, very high prices for fresh fruit on the open market, the age of citrus trees and diseases.

He said his ministry had launched a citrus rehabilitation programme two years ago

and its major objectives were to rejuvenate the old citrus orchards wherever this was economically feasible and to bring new areas into citrus production.

It hoped through these measures to reduce the import bill of approximately \$20 million per annum and "ultimately make this country a net exporter of citrus and citrus products."

CSO: 3298/013

WEEKES, IN FINAL ADDRESS, LOOKS AT OIL WORKERS' ISSUES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 84 p 40

[Text] "Texaco is going. Texaco gone. Amoco must go."

This was the new slogan given to oil workers by retiring Oilfields Workers Trade Union leader George Weekes during what was believed to be his last address as president-general. Weekes, in a sombre mood, was addressing the 45th annual conference of delegates at Palm's Club in San Fernando on Saturday.

The annual conference attracted more than 1,000 delegates and guests from countries as far away as Nigeria, Britain, Antigua and Guyana.

Striking workers of Lever Brothers West Indies Ltd were given a standing ovation by the packed auditorium.

Weekes said: "Now that Texaco is gone, gone, it is our hope that industrial relations in general will improve. Peace in oil depends on peace in Trinidad and Tobago."

Weekes said that had the Government not nationalised Trintoc and controlled the other oil companies, Texaco would have succeeded in having the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery closed down and the thousands of workers employed therein along with a large number of workers in producing fields retrenched.

Weekes, who was elected president general on May 2, 1962, said the union's finances had moved from \$154,080.68 to \$6,196,000 in 1983.

He said that during the period 1962-83, the union's total income was \$38,179,249.96. He said of this total income, the union's expenditure was \$34,695,708.36. He pointed out that the staff had increased from 27 in 1962 to 81 in 1983.

Weekes, who has indicated that he would not seek reelection next year, said that the union's assets in lands and buildings moved from \$309,002.06 in 1962 to \$14,665,047 in 1983.

He said workers' wages in various categories had moved up by more than 100 percent between 1962 and 1983.

He said that in 1962 there were no pension, medical and vacation saving plans. But he noted that these plans were part of the normal fringe benefits of oil workers at present.

The retiring OWTU leader asked: "Why these consistent and frenzied attacks against our leadership by the racist and Godless editors and managers of the printed and electronic media?"

He answered this himself, saying: "The leadership of the OWTU does not accept that the capitalist society is a free and just one. For no society that was truly free and just could have allowed such a dirty plot in society known as slavery and apartheid to have taken place."

He said: "Only a capitalist society allows such crimes. For if slavery and apartheid are not Godless, then those who by sins of omission and commission recognised them chose Satan as their God."

Weekes stressed the importance of nationalising the oil industry and stated that the founding fathers of the OWTU had supported this proposition.

He pointed out that the call for the nationalisation of the oil industry was first made by the founding president of the OWTU, Adrian Cola Rienzi, in the late 1930s.

He said that the quality of life earned for oil workers over the years had made them complacent and they did not now want to march.

He announced that the police had given permission for a massive solidarity march which would take place on Saturday.

He invited the Joint Negotiating Team, now in a wage deadlock with the Chief Personnel Officer, to join in the march.

CSO: 3298/013

PREPARATIONS FOR PNM CONVENTION IN TOBAGO REPORTED

Donaldson on Disruptions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

NATIONAL Security Minister John Donaldson yesterday advised that no attention should be paid to any attempts made to make people feel unwelcome or attempts to embarrass or intimidate them during political meetings in Tobago next weekend.

His comments were made during a Press conference at the Ministry. He issued a statement to the media as Minister of National Security.

Mr. Donaldson said that it had been brought to the attention of Prime Minister George Chambers and himself that action was being contemplated in the next few days to cause difficulty and embarrassment to persons who would be in Scarborough to participate in "normal, legitimate, political activity" at the Signal Hill Comprehensive School.

The ruling People's National Movement (PNM) is due to hold its annual convention in Tobago on September 29 and 30 at the Signal Hill School.

The Minister told newsmen he had information that visitors from Trinidad and other parts of Tobago would be confronted by demonstrations at Crown Point Airport, the Scarborough Harbour and other venues, the intent of which was not consistent with free and peaceful political activity.

Mr. Donaldson, who had Perma-

nent Secretary Leo Seebaran with him yesterday, was referring to a report in a newspaper (not the "Guardian") on Monday under the headline "Surprise for PNM in Tobago."

The Minister called on visitors to Scarborough and other areas of Tobago to refrain from reacting to any incitement from any quarter.

He also called on participants at political meetings in Tobago to turn the other cheek if provoked. Let good sense prevail at all times, he added.

In answer to a question, the Minister said he would try to prevent difficulties. He quoted Part One Section 4 (e) of the Constitution giving citizens the right to join political parties and express political views.

Mr. Donaldson said there would not be any apparent increase in members of the protective service in Tobago next weekend.

"I don't want to be introduced, elements which we have not known," the Minister added.

Preconvention Atmosphere

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Clewon Raphael]

[Text] Scarborough: Life goes on as usual for the average Tobagonian as the sister island is the focal point for a big event on the national political calendar--the annual convention of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

A sample survey showed that there is not that kind of excitement a meeting of the kind should be expected to generate. A promise made a month ago by an ardent PNM supporter to paint Scarborough with the balisier, up to last night was yet to materialise.

One woman told the GUARDIAN yesterday morning: "If they want to come to Tobago to hold their convention, that is their business. Would that help us in any way?"

A young man blurted: "They are holding a convention here? When?"

Another man in a bar said he knew the party was staging its big "do" in Tobago. "I am trying to get some of them to stay by me because I understand they are looking for places to put people. No room at the hotels. Where I can contact them? I could well do with te small change."

Hotels in fact have been booked and even guesthouses for senior PNM officials.

This weekend's convention (Saturday and Sunday) is largely viewed as an attempt to boost the party's chances in the November elections of the THA.

The life of the first term of the THA expires on November 23 and according to THA chairman ANR Robinson, if everything is properly done, the election should be held on November 26.

According to official reports, the PNM has selected its slate of 12 candidates and they are expected to be presented at Sunday's session of the convention at the Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive School.

The PNM is in the opposition in the THA, having won only four of the twelve seats. The Democratic Action Congress, which controls the assembly with eight seats, is in the process of screening its candidates and according to a party source, there will be new faces in the lineup.

About a surprise being planned for the PNMites and their guests a political source said the PNM would be allowed to come and hold their meeting in peace.

"I don't know what all the panic from the PNM camp is all about," one obvious PNM supporter said. "We will show them, especially DAC, how a true party conducts its affairs. After this convention, if they still want to say they have a party they have no shame." Meanwhile, election fever is yet to rise in Tobago.

Robinson on THA Funding

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

OUT of \$83.3 million allocated for the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) to be spent under long-term development projects in 1984, only \$27 million was received up to yesterday according to THA Chairman ANR Robinson.

He made this complaint yesterday, adding that that was the latest position in spite of all the mouthings of Prime Minister George Chambers.

"I will say more on this at the appropriate time but it is a situation that is scandalous, shocking and deplorable. Areas such as water; roads, electricity and telephones are to be improved under long-term projects. I only wish that they will tell the people the truth. That is the stark reality," Mr Robinson said.

He said the Clerk of the Assembly was the accounting officer and even though the Minister of Finance (Mr Chambers) had authorised the release of \$40 million to date, only \$27 million was actually received.

Rumors of PNM Shifts

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

FINAL preparations were being made up to last night for this weekend's annual convention of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) which opens this morning in Tobago.

PNMites in their large numbers began converging on the sister island in earnest from yesterday.

The only matter by way of a "surprise" for the PNM members and supporters were bumper stickers and wall posters saying "Defend Your House of Assembly."

Generally, PNMites who came from Trinidad spent yesterday in a holiday mood, frolicking on the beach and renewing acquaintances.

The convention opens with one major question still to be answered — Who are the Party's 12 candidates for the Tobago House of Assembly election due in November.

Several names including Senator Patrick Arnold and 610 Radio announcer Hilson Phillips are being mentioned.

Mr. Victor Bruce, former Governor of Central Bank, is tipped to be the Chairman of the THA if the PNM wins the elections.

According to a party source, Prime Minister George Chambers will not be

staying at his official residence in Tobago as he will be in the sister island primarily for party matters.

A BLACKOUT

Asked to comment on rumours that Mr. Chambers could announce a Cabinet reshuffle during the convention, a party source said: "At every convention some backbencher who believes he should be made minister starts that rumour. Don't bother with that."

It was pointed out that there were no problems with respect to accommodation.

The Secretariat of the PNM would be operating at Mt. Irving for the next couple of days.

The party source also said he expected some headache from the other political party, (Democratic Action Congress) but so far things were going smoothly.

A power outage hit most parts of Scarborough last night, including the Signal Hill Comprehensive school where the PNM convention is to be held. The Scarborough Mall escaped the blackout.

TAPIA HOUSE SAYS NAR LEADERSHIP NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED

Call for Talks

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

THE question of the leadership of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) is an urgent one which needs to be addressed immediately, according to Bhoe Tewarie, chairman of the Tapia House Movement.

In a statement issued before today's Tapia Press conference, Tewarie said this cannot be postponed indefinitely.

He said although discussions were continuing on such matters as a constitution and a common programme and policy, a sense of urgency seemed to be lacking and many vital issues which needed to be settled quickly were being postponed.

"One of these is the mechanism for selecting a political leader," he said.

"Part of the problem may lie in the fact that certain elements within the NAR are not fully committed to a single national party," he added. "If this is the case, then a head-on collision over candidates and seats may well ensue and this would be disastrous for all parties and for the country as a whole.

"Steps must be taken to avoid a dog fight that may threaten the stability of the NAR," he said.

"If we are more concerned about ascendancy than unity; if Caroni becomes more important than national unity; if Tobago grows into a larger issue than Trinidad and Tobago, then there is no chance of carrying the population forward and no chance of beating the ruling party," he added.

Need for 'Urgency'

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Sep 84 p 40

[Article by Gregory Shaw]

[Text] Admitting that they were "trying to put a little pressure" on the other members of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), the Tapia House Movement yesterday called for a new urgency in settling the question of leadership of a unified opposition party.

And to thrash out the question of leadership and ratify a constitution for the NAR, Tapia has proposed a joint convention of the existing opposition parties to be held before November, 1984.

These proposals were aired yesterday at a Press conference at Tapia's offices in Duke Street, Port of Spain, where members of Tapia's executive told the press that "time is of the essence" in the formation of "one single unitary party" by the opposition and the settlement of the leadership question.

Declaring that the PNM was putting itself on an electoral footing both in Trinidad and Tobago, Tapia Chairman, Beau Tewarie, warned that "time is running out."

"If Mr Chambers senses that he will lose in Tobago, he may opt instead for a national election in November," Tewarie said. And even if the Tobago House of Assembly elections are held, there is nothing to prevent Chambers from calling a general election immediately afterwards, "if he succeeds in holding on to four seats or gets five," he added.

"Chambers is well aware that the game is so tight this time some risks are necessary, Tewarie said. "That is why he has stuck his neck out in Tobago."

But the Tapia chairman called on the NAR leadership to also take risks in the interests of settling the leadership question, thereby giving the public at large sufficient time to develop trust in the new unified party.

In a prepared statement read by party treasurer, Peter Fung Kee Fung, Tapia reiterated a proposal for an electoral assembly, made up of representatives of the various parties in the NAR, to choose a leader of a unified opposition party in "open and democratic" fashion. The choice of leader would be ratified by the National Convention in November.

Tapia said that these proposals would be put before the rest of the leadership of the NAR when their "Contact" group next meets on October 1.

CSO: 3298/027

UNION WAGE DEMANDS DRAW FIRE FROM PRESS

Government's Responsibility

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 16 Sep 84 p 8

[Editorial: "The Result Will Be National Suicide"]

[Text]

We appear to have a death wish in this country. At a time when the signs of depletion of reserves, falling revenues and contracting exports are unmistakeable, supposedly responsible people appear committed to hasten the collapse of the economy.

Let us say from the outset that the primary responsibility for the demands now being made must rest with the Government. Starting with the special Works programme (now graduated into DEWD) an entire generation has been encouraged to think that the society owes them a living. Not only was it official policy to pretend that people were being paid for work when we all knew that no work was being done, but

this was in many instances tied to the most outrageous forms of political patronage.

Likewise our Port became a scandal with some people being paid large sums of money for "standing by" and others enjoying huge incomes and fringe benefits without accompanying productivity.

Until very recently all of our utilities were grossly inefficient, with T & TEC having the unique distinction during the 60's and early 70's of being the sole exception. But as political manipulation continued they too joined the ranks of the well paid and inefficient.

Recognising a golden opportunity when the oil boom came Trade Unions took the fullest possible advantage of the government's unwillingness to stop playing politics with wages. The result has been

a gross pattern of conspicuous consumption, a crude value system that places the emphasis on Johnny Walker Black Label and fast living and in a number of instances a growing disinclination to serious work. Perhaps the worst (or best depending upon your point of view) example of this scenario has been the lower levels of the Public Service where accountability is virtually non-existent.

If today the economy, the Nation and the Government are in trouble, we must understand why.

But does it mean, like some trade union leaders pretend, that since the Government created the problem we can press on with demands for increases as though the inevitable collapse this will portend is not our business? Only totally irresponsible people can think so. Those who

are indifferent to calls for nation-building must at least be concerned about how much longer their jobs will continue if the economy collapses and the kind of environment in which their children will live.

When the rhetoric of wild Trade Union leaders — who incidentally continue to earn their salaries during strike time — is hushed, it is, as one well known political personality was known to say, the employee to catch. It is, therefore, the height of absurdity given the seriousness of the downturn facing this country for people who are concerned about their jobs to continue to be led up the garden path of high expectations when we should all be doing our very best to batten down in order to survive the storm.

The Government cannot succumb during this period to the confrontation tactics to which it has been so vulnerable in the past. If

they do they would be vastly more irresponsible than those Trade Union leaders who take people out on strike for months, worsen the conditions of the economy and then try to negotiate back their jobs, achieving only national confusion.

We appeal at this time for clear thinking. The issue in Trinidad and Tobago cannot be increased wages. It has to be job security and increased productivity on every front. Whoever may have been responsible for leading us into this situation, and we have made our own views clear on this point, the crisis we face will only be overcome by our collective resolve to behave in a mature and responsible manner.

If we fail to take heed of all the signs around us and continue to call for more...more...and more when it just is not there, the result will be national suicide.

[Text]

'PUNISH the public. Mislead the youth. Erode morality. Endanger safety. These are the wicked and calculated effects of a series of unprincipled and irresponsible steps being taken by the Joint Negotiating Team (JoiNT) in pressing Government to accept demands the country simply cannot afford. Pay us, and to hell with everything else is the theme.

'To be sure, they have been encouraged to believe that confrontation is the answer to every disagreement in this country. The boisterous example of DEWD workers menacing, threatening and mobbing government into shame-faced acceptance of a ten day fortnight, and retraction of a seven-day proposal, heightens Government's ineptness, weakness and lack of principle. It puts the full focus on leadership devoid of moral landmarks, and guided by unvarnished political expediency.

'How must JoiNT feel when a union can call the economic tune and instruct the Prime Minister to send a major oil company packing, and warn another of a similar fate... even while the Government whimpers about needed foreign investment?

Can JoiNT or anyone else expect to be readily convinced about cash shortages in the system when a so-called hard-up government can fork-out tens of millions to buy an ancient refinery, and donate largesse to dead-beat, money-losing government companies? Can a population be moved to decency by the hushing up of major public scandals? And what about the systematic hiding of the financial truth about ISCOTT?

It's a rough, disheartening scene. One in which it is easy to abandon one's better judgment and join the herd in its stampede to perdition. But is this what one expects from allegedly educated, thinking people in our society? Aren't the teachers the cream of our education system? The experienced and degreed individuals with history at their fingertips, and worlds of knowledge and background at their command? Aren't they also the people who shape and mould the future, instruct the innocent and exert immense exemplary influence on the youth in particular and society in general?

'Yet they are part of a disgraceful JoiNT that has turned its back on decency, responsibility and principle, and opted for the crudities of Caliban, the oaf from Shakespeare's "Tempest." A tempest, indeed, have they stirred up, becoming swallowed in its vortex, rather than directing its energies to good, to improvement.

The teachers, above all, should have the resourcefulness and tenacity, the thinking power, to take union representation out of the stalled muck of noisy, smelly confrontation to new levels of negotiation. Who better than the teachers know and can explain the financial mire an ad hoc government has led us all into? Who better than the teachers can show intel-

lectual direction and leadership out of a sad, greed-ridden context?

Who better than the teachers to intellectualise and respect rules and procedure? Yet, the very people who preach rules, order and rectitude are now resorting to rule-bending — e.g. work-to-rule — and worse. They more than most should display the highest responsibility to their profession and moreso to their young charges, and ensure smooth continuity in the didactic process while taking necessary legal steps, in concert with economic and moral realities. In this connection, the Industrial Court should be the unarguable arbiter, and not a convenient long stop at the far edge of aggressive "play."

It is to the teachers one looks to devise ways and means, for instance, to obtain better conditions for their rank and file. Instead of drum-beating for wider/heavier taxation, why not ask for LESS taxation? Trinidad and Tobago has some of the highest taxes in the world; and in terms of returns, the most dismal. Would it not be more positive to seek tax incentives for student/teacher travel, improved car allowances, or some such that do not incur the higher taxation of bigger salaries?

INVENTIVENESS

Why not productivity allowances based on classes taught about basic minimums? Can't the inventiveness of teachers come up with something new, resourceful and, above all, POSITIVE? Are hoary negative tactics the only, un-ending answer? Is punishing the public, and ransoming the future and its attitudes, the sole means of action for alleged thinkers?

How does it appear to the public for thousands of teachers to come back rested, relaxed and rejuvenated from a long summer vacation (that the rest of the public does not enjoy) and mark their return to school-work by foot-dragging work-to-rule? One would have expected them to surge into their duties with new vigour and imagination.

Is going slow and working-to-rule the upshots of university education, much reading and study, and extensive travel?

But punishing the innocent public and giving a rotten example to young people in particular have become endemic in a directionless society without conscience. One glaring illustration of bad example, negativism and disorder is contained in a Special Negotiation Bulletin of the "Public Service Review." Its topic — what work-to-rule means. It is too absurd to be paraphrased and this column carries it in full to display the non-positive thinking from people who should know better:

1. MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS MUST NOT DRIVE DEFECTIVE VEHICLES — i.e. vehicles missing headlights, defective brakes, no licence and insurance, spare tyres etc.

2. OFFICERS AT PORTS OF ENTRY INTO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Thorough examination of all in-coming and out-going personnel and personal effects.

3. NO OVERTIME.

4. NO WORK TO BE PERFORMED ON PREMISES — where there is no water, electricity and defective air-conditioning systems.

5. NO WORK TO BE PERFORMED DURING LUNCH HOUR.

6. DO NOT USE DEFECTIVE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT.

7. DO NOT PERFORM ANY DUTIES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF YOUR JOB SPECIFICATION.

What it really adds up to is don't work at all!

Which member of private enterprise, especially those responsible for the survival of the business, can follow those ridiculous suggestions without the business going bust? To quote from the calypso, "Those who ain't dead, badly wounded." Can you imagine what would happen if a key supervisor or a managing director took one look at his office the day the air-conditioner was not working or effective, and then announced to the secretary that work is impossible under those conditions and that he is going to Maracas Bay?

The same people in private enterprise that the JoINT leaders love to point to as enjoying the gravy are able to enjoy some gravy because they stand up at the hot stove all day and prepare it. The last time Manna fell from the heavens was 4,000 years ago. Since then, as no less a person than Paul of Tarsus has noted, we must work for our living, or deserve to starve.

If there are adults among the workers represented by the JoINT they will know that performance and honest work are what life is all about. To do otherwise is to kill personal fulfilment and to damage your society because not only are attitudes and morals interfered with, but in cold dollar and cents, the capacity for the country to generate income is being axed.

To those in the public service — whether postman, policeman, fireman, clerk, or teacher — who have been too busy to think on how business works, and hence how a country

operates, is it reasonable or possible to expect a pay increase from an organisation which, through the actions of its employees, is rapidly losing business?

If a parlour sells 100 tulumbs a day and the two employees get \$10 each per day; and if the two employees go on strike or on a work-to-rule and the sales of tulumbs drop to 50 per day, it stands to reason that in a rather short while the parlour will not even be able to meet a six per cent increase.

EMOTIVE RESPONSE

Wouldn't it be better for the two employees of the mythical parlour to make use of existing and reliable procedures for settling the dispute, rather than spoil their faces by cutting off their noses?

One point in the Public Service Review, perhaps more than the others, carries much emotive response potential. It is Point Two which encourages thorough examination of in-coming and out-going personnel and personal effects at ports of entry. Many Customs officers are taking a delight in carrying out this rule and several are the stories of people having their bags dug up from one end to the other, their personal effects ending up on dirty counters, in the carrying out of this "macho" edict.

As if that were not enough, there are now sympathetic noises from the firemen and the policemen. How the arsonists and criminals must be rejoicing! No matter if infants get raped, the innocent get shot, and peaceful citizens are terrorised, once the police and the firemen get their pay, nothing else matters. Concern for the public is becoming of no concern of those who are supposed to protect and to serve.

Of course we return to the initial argot in that we are saddled with incompetence at the top. Which path do we take? Do we follow them down to disaster? Or do we set our own standards and do the decent thing?

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Sep 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Dr. Blackman's View"]

[Text]

WE do not know whether Dr. Courtney Blackman, Governor of the Barbados Central Bank, has been reading our editorials over the past several months, but we are pleased to note that he holds precisely the same views we have been expressing, particularly on the role of trade unions in our present-day economic situation.

We have pointed out repeatedly in the past that the concept of the trade union as simply an agency for extracting from employers higher wages and better working conditions for their members is now quite archaic and, in fact, may be seriously inimical to the national interest particularly among developing countries.

We have described radical trade union leaders whose operating policies have become synonymous with confrontation and disruption as Neanderthals on the road to extinction.

TURBULENT

Unfortunately, it seems that they will not disappear without a struggle, without wreaking maximum damage in terms of public hardship, lost industrial output and increased unemployment.

We have suggested to trade union leaders that the time has come for a more enlightened approach to the business of collective bargaining since the impact of whatever they do must have a direct effect, favourably or otherwise, on the economy of our country.

Speaking to a gathering of Caribbean businessmen earlier this month, Dr. Blackman expressed quite similar views.

He made, in our opinion, two crucial suggestions: First, that trade unions assume more responsibility for the economic success of their societies and, secondly, that they should be as equally concerned as management with the survival and growth of the enterprise, taking steps to preserve the jobs of their members over the long term.

Looking at the survival of our country in the present economic situation, this has been our contention for quite some time, even before the industrial relations climate became so turbulent.

And now, to appropriate the words of Dr. Blackman: "Too often in the last decade, trade union leaders have pretended that issues like the balance of payments, inflation and unemployment were no concern of theirs; that their only responsibility was increased wages for their members."

"In fact, the rate of wage increases in Caribbean economies is the most important factor in successful economic management."

The fear of losing their membership for want of militancy may be a real one, but radical trade union leaders must recognise that they are now operating in a totally different economic environment in which the brutal old game of pay-up-or-else has become dangerously irrelevant.

Expressing a parallel view, Dr. Blackman pointed out

that, with the coming of the Information Age, the trade union has become a distinctly endangered species. He gave three graphic indications:

"In the UK, the Thatcher Government, with considerable public support, has dealt some damaging blows to the labour movement."

"The Wall Street Journal of Tuesday September 18, reported that 44 percent of all Californians believe that labour unions do more harm than good, up from 28 percent who thought so in 1977."

DISRUPTIONS

"Throughout the Caribbean, Governments have been increasingly able to impose wage settlements through legislation — something unthinkable 20 years ago."

Dr. Blackman then makes a conclusion similar to ours: "I am not sure that trade union leaders have drawn the correct inferences from these developments."

The continuing disruptions from trade union agitation in our country is enough evidence of the truth of this assessment.

In fact, the ongoing tragedy of Trinidad and Tobago should now be obvious to all clear-sighted citizens — that the disruptions which are now spreading to the public sector and the educational system stem largely from the the agitation of trade union leaders still ignorant of their transcendent responsibility and seemingly out of touch with the present reality.

PRESIDENT SCORES INADEQUATE GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Ellis Clarke has described the system of consultation involving the President, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in relation to appointments as "not an ideal one".

There was no definition of the meaning of "consultation," he said. His own complaint he added, was that "we have not developed a proper system of consultation."

The President's comments were made in a Television interview on Republic Day with TTT's Jones Madeira, during which President Clarke drew attention to the difference between the office of Governor General under the monarchical system and that of President under the Republican system of government.

After drawing attention to the role of the Governor-General as the representative of the Queen in a monarchical system, he said that a Prime Minister cannot bring pressure to bear on a President under the present system because the president's term of office is a fixed one. He was not saying that the Prime Minister would try, what he was saying was that constitutionally he could not.

President Clarke said there was a number of appointments in which he

had to use his discretion.

"In exercising his discretion, the President consults with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, but this does not in fact diminish his responsibilities for the appointments.

"The system is not an ideal one, there is no definition for the meaning or consultation."

GREAT DEAL MORE

"And my own complaint about it is that we have not developed a proper system of consultation. It has not been as complete as it ought to be. It has not been as timely as it ought to be. It is something on which a great deal more effort should be expended and a great deal more time spent in sitting down and considering all the facts because there are limitations to the information".

The President has a limited number of people he knows, and there is the unfortunate tendency of the one side or the other to have people appointed apparently in their corner.

"And this has to be resisted. So I am not saying this has been ideal by any means, and if there has been complaints about it, there have been grounds for complaint.

"But I feel that the system can be developed and I believe what we are dealing with now is not how it actually works, but the fact that there has been a great change between the position of the Governor-General and the position of the President," he added.

NATIONAL DEBT NOW AT RECORD \$2.8 BILLION

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 16 Sep 84 p 16

[Text] Downturn in the economy continued its rough ride up to the middle of 1984 with a record national debt of \$2,863.5 million to show.

The \$2.8 billion debt at the end of June was almost \$300 million above the figure for the whole of 1983--\$2,585.8 million. It topped the March 1984 toll by some \$183 million.

Foreign borrowing of \$1,789.8 million and local debts totalling \$1,073.7 million comprise the overall figure.

This position is outlined in the Quarterly Economic Bulletin of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago for the second quarter of 1984.

Outlook

Few bright sparks surfaced in a sea of gloomy prospects in the review and outlook of the economy. Reversal of the decline in crude oil production (see oil stories on page 6) was a plus--but refinery throughput "remains at a relatively low level."

The bulletin paints a daunting picture in practically every sector of the economy:

--Foreign reserves down by \$316.7 million to \$3,633.2 million (Figure at the end of August moved up to \$3,827.2 million).

--A Government cash flow deficit of \$119 million during April-June 1984 despite indications of increased collections from indirect taxes. Overall deficit for first half of year was \$1,111.4 million.

--Capital expenditure by Government down by 30.3 percent for the first six months of this year compared with the same period for 1983.

--Drop in fertiliser production of six percent with exports in the second quarter falling by 26 percent in 236.1 thousand tonnes, from 322,600 tonnes during January to March. This is coupled with the drop in export prices of anhydrous ammonia, down to \$160-\$165 (US) a tonne in May-June compared with \$185-\$195(US) in April and \$210 (US) a tonne in February.

The bulletin pointed out that lower Government spending and the slow-down in economic activity "had important consequences for the banking sector."

This resulted in lower growth of deposits in commercial banks and lower levels of liquidity. A slow-down in the rate of commercial bank credit "has been accompanied by a shift in the allocation of credit in a direction more consistent with the guidelines of the Central Bank."

Credits

Share of individual non-business loans in incremental credits at the end of June had declined to 27.3 percent. Just 2.3 percent above the 25 percent indicated by the Central Bank since 1979.

Commercial bank credit grew by 2.4 percent in the first five months of 1984. The bulletin pointed out "this was in sharp contrast to the relatively rapid rate of credit expansion experienced in the corresponding period of 1983, when bank credit grew by 11.7 percent."

CSO: 3298/028

THREE FOREIGN FIRMS SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR ISCOTT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text]

A NEW lease on life is shaping up for the money-draining Iron and Steel Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT). Three sets of proposals have been submitted by four foreign firms to Government in its search for a partnership arrangement to lift the State-owned company into a viable functioning entity.

Joint proposals have come from two United States steel corporations — Bechtel and Nucor. Individual proposals were also sent in by the Austrian State-owned Voest Alpine and the West German firm New Hamburg Steel Works.

Discussions had been in train over the past months between representatives of the prospective partners and officials of Government, ISCOTT and the Esau Committee appointed by Cabinet to review the operations of the Point Lisas-based steel plant.

Minister of State Enterprises Ronald Williams said yesterday that the proposals had been received and were being evaluated by the review committee headed by chartered accountant Joseph Esau.

BEFORE YEAR END

What are the proposals? The Minister replied: "It will be most improper of me to give details. They will have come back to me from the committee with recommendations for submission to Cabinet."

The Minister said it was not possible to state precisely when a decision would be taken "as the proposals have to be analysed and I imagine some clarification will be required in discussions with the proposers."

Will a decision be possible by year end? He replied: "I am hoping that long before that at least we will know where we are heading. We should get some agreement in principle or sign a letter of intent that will allow us to proceed. It depends on the evaluation and the recom-

mendations."

Government had been seeking foreign partners to put up equity and whatever expertise at their command in the setting up of a new company with Government to lease and operate ISCOTT. The operative plan is for Government to retain full ownership of the billion-dollar-plus steel plant.

The Minister said in reply to a question that the proposals submitted were along lines advocated by Government.

Are you looking any further for partners or is it the end of the search? He replied: "I will not say that the search is over but these are the firms we have come up with so far. We are always open to suggestions. If somebody comes along with another proposal — by all means we will consider it."

Will the proposals have to be along the same lines? The Minister said that it was "fairly well acknowledged that potential partners see the operating company concept as the correct concept."

The Minister said that meanwhile ISCOTT is shouldering on... doing the best they can." He said that some of the employees had returned from a training session at the Hamburg steel plant and "they have come back with a lot of ideas and valuable information which they would not have got if they had stayed at home."

The Esau Committee was set up by Cabinet with terms of reference to:

- Find an international partner for the company.
- Examine ISCOTT's 1984 Budget with a view to to achieve maximum savings in the shortest possible time.

Budget proposals involved the Government funding of the company to the extent of \$212.2 million for 1984. This was apart from annual losses of over \$200 million.

A recommendation of the committee in its report in April this year called for a temporary one-year shutdown of the company. This was not acted on by Government.

FARMERS' CONCERNS IN MARKETING, LAND TENURE ADDRESSED

Call for Co-op

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 17 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

NATIONAL Foodcrop Farmers' Association yesterday made a strong call to its members to take the lead in setting up a co-operative in order to determine the prices of their produce on the market.

The call was made by the association's vice-president, Nazim Ali, at a seminar on food production held at the Valsayn Teachers' College, in which the marketing system and insecurity of tenure for farmers were the two main issues discussed.

The vice-president urged farmers to take the initiative in organising their own marketing system, in the face of the low Minimum Guarantee Prices offered by the Central Marketing Agency and the control of the market price by middlemen.

Said Ali: "It is because of an archaic and chaotic situation in marketing of fresh vegetables and foodcrops that the farmers are dissatisfied and the consumers are being ripped off."

"At the wholesale market, farmers are subjected to intense haggling for their goods, usually ending with farmers selling their goods at next to nothing."

"This year tomatoes sold for as low as 30 cents per pound, cabbage

at 35 cents and cucumber was given away. These same goods were sold to consumers at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$4," he said.

He said, however, that the NFFA was not against middlemen, who he said were carrying out an essential service to consumers. He added, however: "All of us must agree that the situation is terrible and not in the best interest of agricultural productivity."

The current Minimum Guarantee Prices offered by the Central Marketing Agency (CMA) were set in 1978, and the NFFA has since called for a review.

For tomatoes and cabbage, the association recommended an increase from 28 cents to \$2 for tomatoes and from 23 cents to \$1.85 for cabbages."

Two years ago the ministry set up a committee to look at the question, but have not yet given a position, it was stated.

Said Ali: "We of the NFFA are aware of the CMA's problems. They cannot pay higher prices because they have no mechanism of distributing goods efficiently and profitably."

The vice-president, who is a member of an advisory board set up to consider problems at the

market, said that the association's voice was not being heeded, and threatened to pull out if the trend continued.

Secretary Selwyn Sookhoo said that the absence of cold storage facilities has caused instability in the prices.

On the point of middlemen, he said that in a bid to eradicate them, the committee recommended that opening hours be changed from midnight to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

He said that after two short weeks, the ministry reverted the hours to 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. This, he said, convinced the association that the committee had no meaningful power.

He added that the Wholesale Market, although opened last January, was built on a design made 10 years ago. As a result it could not accommodate the increased activity and was virtually obsolete.

A new centrally located market, possibly at the corner of Aranguez Main Road and the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway, has been proposed by the association.

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Sep 84 p 4

[Text]

THE bulk of small farmers suffer from insecurity of land tenure, and whatever steps taken so far by government towards land settlement have been totally inadequate, president of the National Food-crop Farmers Association (NFFA), Ragoonath Khemraj, said on Sunday.

The president said that government has recognised the importance of land security for farmers, but has failed to implement plans, instead showing a confusion in their policy and planning.

He quoted from the second five-year development plan 1964-69, which states: "The absence of title or evidence of ownership can inhibit the development of the small farm and prevent the production of a marketable surplus which is so vital to capital formation in agriculture."

After generations on the land, Aranguez farms still rent from an absentee landlord, the president said.

At Caura, he said, farmers who were given rental leases up to two years ago, were being

asked to leave to make way for a recreation park.

"This demonstrates the confusion that exists with government policy and planning," he said.

He added that houses were competing with agriculture for land space, and pointed to Paramin, South Oropouche, where he said farmers were being terrorised by big landlords to quit the land which they have occupied for decades, in order to make way for "land speculation."

A similar problem was being experienced in Garden Village, Arouca, where eight acres of agricultural land have been given for housing.

Secretary Selwyn Sookhoo pointed to a study done in the early seventies by Dr Ridwan Ali, in which the prime agricultural land in the country was identified.

He said the Association's policy was for such a scientific approach to be applied in zoning the two needs of national priority.

Mannie Dookeran, the Ministry of Agriculture's Chief Technical Officer, was expected to advance government's policy on both issues of land security and the marketing system which were dealt with at yesterday's seminar.

He was unable, however, to attend as his son

was recently killed in a vehicular accident.

Ian Fletcher, Agricultural Officer I, who represented the ministry yesterday, said he was not in a position to advance policy, but outlined the procedure in the granting of state lands. He said the ministry was looking into problems at Garden Village.

President Khemraj outlined the association's six-point policy on the matter:

- All genuine farmers with outstanding land problems must be settled immediately.

- Land of absentee landlords must be purchased or expropriated and distributed to farmers.

- Government must acquire large abandoned estates to distribute among farmers.

- The development of lands in Nariva and South Oropouche for distribution to farmers for food production (as decided several years ago).

- Distribution of Caroni lands to sugar workers and prospective farmers with technical assistance and infrastructure.

- Implementation of land distribution and/or food production proposals on a rational basis as outlined in the White Paper on Agriculture.

TELCO NEGOTIATES \$70-MILLION LOAN FROM JAPAN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

OFFICIALS of the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company Limited (Telco) signed a \$70 million loan agreement with a consortium of Japanese banks yesterday, at the office of Telco's Executive Director, 85 Abercromby Street, Port-of-Spain.

The loan will be used to purchase feeder and distribution cables for the Phase III development programme.

The lead bank involved in the consortium is Sumitomo Bank Limited. Co-leaders are the Bank of Tokyo Limited and the Nippon Credit

Bank Limited. Other participants include the Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Limited, the Hokuriku Bank Limited, the Saitama Bank Limited and the Sumitomo Trust and Banking Company Limited.

Under its Phase III development programme, Telco is installing digital switching and transmission equipment, new cable facilities and thousands of new subscriber lines.

Executive Director Dr. Neilson Mackay, and the Corporate Secretary Rudy Brown signed on behalf of Telco.

Mr. Eiichi Kato, Chief Represen-

tative of the Sumitomo Bank Limited, Caracas Representative Office, signed on behalf of the consortium. The loan is guaranteed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Mackay noted: "This loan is yet another indication of the growing confidence which financiers, local and foreign, continue to have in the company. Indeed, the company is today in the enviable position of being able to obtain (and repay) loans in the financial market, at a time when even some countries are being turned away empty handed".

CSO: 3298/029

BRIEFS

MANNING ON CRUDE PRODUCTION--Despite its teething problems, the EC-O forms are meant to ensure that this country's hard-earned foreign exchange is put to the best possible use. Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural-Based Resources, stressed this on Saturday, as he addressed the annual conference of the People's National Movement (PNM) San Fernando East Constituency, for which he is parliamentary representative. "We in Trinidad and Tobago, and particularly those of us associated with the oil industry on a daily basis, face the future with considerable optimism for market stability in short and medium-term, fully confident that as real economic recovery becomes more widespread, better days will come" Manning declared. Trinidad and Tobago is now producing more oil this year than in 1983, he informed party members. One week ago, a level of 176,031 barrels a day was reached the highest since August, 1982. So far, this year, the average daily production has been 165,563 barrels daily, a three-and-a-half percent rise over last year's figures. On the local market, Government's cutting down of subsidies on petroleum products has considerably cut down the drain on the country's coffers. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Sep 84 p 1]

SUGAR, COCOA, COFFEE OUTPUT--Sugar production in Trinidad and Tobago slumped by three percent during the first quarter of 1984 compared to the corresponding period last year. According to a statement from the Central Statistical Office, during the first three months of 1984, the production rate was 48.1 tonnes. But the quantity of sugar exported was 25.8 tonnes, 126 percent more than the figure for the first quarter of 1983. None of the sugar produced in the first three months of 1984 was made available for use in Trinidad and Tobago. "Cocoa beans production of 639,000 kg decreased by 27 percent when compared with the figure for the corresponding period in 1983. Coffee beans production fell from 694,000 kg produced in January to March 1983 to 465,000 kg in the corresponding period for 1984, a decrease of 33 percent, the CSO reported. Domestic exports of 694,000 kg of cocoa beans for the first quarter of 1984, showed a decline by 15 percent when compared with the exports for the same period in 1983. There were no exports of coffee beans during the first quarter of 1984. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 84 p 18]

CSO: 3298/013

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY SHOWS SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Sep 84 p 2-2

[Text] With gratification reflected on his face over the success achieved, the minister of energy and mines, Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, first requested the reporters to pay close attention to what he was about to say immediately, and to kindly record his remarks and the statistics that he would quote immediately with the greatest of accuracy.

He began by remarking: "Thirty years ago, the petrochemical industry began in Venezuela, located first at what was called the Venezuelan Petrochemical Institute. Later, in 1977, the national executive body decided to assign the petrochemical industry (which was then showing losses in excess of 500 million bolivares per year) to Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc [PDVSA], under whose direction and protection it started operating in 1978.

"The total rearrangement of its managerial and operational system made it possible to cut the volume of losses, as the industrial plant became linked with a new production strategy; to the point where, in 1983, last year, the Petrochemical Company of Venezuela (PEQUIVEN), which is what it is called now, produced profits of slightly over 27 million bolivares."

"But you will be amazed," said the minister, with a trace of a smile and a perceptible gleam in his eye," at what I am going to tell you: Owing to the improvement in the prices of exports and, of course, the increase in these foreign sales, PEQUIVEN (which during all these past years had received loaned money from PDVSA in order to be able to operate) will return to the parent firm this year the sum of 1.3 billion bolivares in payment of the loans received. It will accrue a net or liquid profit of 473 million bolivares (which, ironically, is virtually the same amount that it lost in 1977), and it will pay 245 million bolivares in income tax (virtually for the first time in its nearly 30-year history). In other words, Venezuela's petrochemical industry, thanks to the effort and dedication of its managerial, technical, administrative and laboring personnel, will this year not only succeed in surpassing all levels reached in previous years, but will become rightfully included in the efficient, productive environment in which the oil industry has always moved."

The minister commented with emotion: "This result should be gratifying to the country, because by virtue of it we have demonstrated that it is, indeed,

possible to accrue considerable gains from the public enterprises when they are managed appropriately."

But no one is preaching excessive optimism with this, remarked Hernandez Grisanti. Both the oil industry and the Petrochemical Company of Venezuela are continuing their policy of cutting costs; and the national government, for its part, is still maintaining a policy of backing the decisions of OPEC, so long as they protect and defend the markets and prices of hydrocarbons (as has always been the case). In conclusion, the minister said that the impression received by the oil ministers of Libya, Nigeria and Indonesia, who have recently been in Venezuela, was that this trip was extremely positive and that the contact with President Lusinchi was highly advantageous.

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CSO: 3348/16

ENERGY MINISTER, PDVSA OFFICIALS DISCUSS OIL REVENUE INCREASE

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 7 Sep 84 p 2-2

[Text] Yesterday, at least a half dozen positive features were submitted to the press by the minister of energy and mines, Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, in his capacity as chairman of the PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc] half-yearly regular assembly, in discussing the results accrued by the Venezuelan oil industry during the first half; which, generally speaking, exceeded all the expectations shown in the estimates made at the end of 1983 as a guess at the results for the first half of 1984.

What Has Been Accomplished:

Accompanied by the vice minister of energy and mines, Dr Hernan Anzola Jimenez, and PDVSA's top-ranking management, consisting of the president, engineer Brigido Natera; Dr Pablo Reimpell and Dr Juan Chacin Guzman, the first and second vice-president, respectively, Minister Hernandez Grisanti began his oral address facing about 50 reporters in attendance.

He started by recalling that, in March of this year (on the occasion of the holding of the stockholders assembly to observe the 1983 results and to make arrangements affecting the present results), it was decided to change the oil industry's operational budget in view of the decision made by the national executive body to raise the quotation of the oil dollar from 4.30 to 6 bolivares. He said: "And now a new revision has been made in that budget. And we can claim that the general results and estimates have been extremely satisfactory, despite the fact that this has been a rather difficult year insofar as markets are concerned."

In this connection, the minister confirmed what had been said on previous occasions regarding the status of OPEC, giving a reminder that it is "currently producing under 17 million barrels per day, whereas 5 years ago 31 million barrels per day were being produced in those same countries."

The minister then went on to discuss the prices paid for Venezuelan oil on the international market. He said that, last year, the average price received by our country was \$25.31 per barrel. And in the original budget, it was estimated that the average price for this year, 1984, would be \$25.93 per barrel. Nevertheless, the auspicious event of the good yields accrued from refined products

at Amuay and Cardon, which have been exported at remunerative prices, has made it possible to revise this estimate of the average price, which has now been set at \$26.70 per barrel for the 547.5 million barrels of crude and products to be exported this year. And this means that, despite the fact that we are facing a depressed market, Venezuela is achieving an increment of nearly \$1.40 per barrel over the average price attained in 1983, while maintaining its export volume at 1.5 million barrels per day, and keeping up its export volume of white refined products with a high financial yield.

The minister claims that all this means that the revenue from oil foreign exchange which had originally been estimated at \$14.255 billion for this year, 1984, has been revised; and it is now estimated that this revenue (from export sales alone) will exceed \$14.6 billion this year, in other words an increase over the original estimate of considerably over \$300 million.

He added that, at the same time, the industry has achieved major savings of funds through an effort for administrative streamlining and the attainment of new productivity margins. In short, this year we shall have more revenue and fewer expenses. Evidence of this is the fact that, for example, the \$2.5 billion spent abroad in 1982 by the oil industry was cut to \$1.6 billion in 1983; but, this year, 1984, we shall reduce it to \$1.38 billion. This means that further savings will be produced which, added to the increase in revenue from the effects of the price improvement, will make up an additional revenue of \$851 million this year, which may be added to the calculation made originally. In other words, more than half of this additional revenue comes from savings and the other half from an increment due to an improvement in prices.

But an effort has also been made to reduce the industry's operational budget, which had originally been set at 16.897 billion bolivares. Nevertheless, in this latest revision that we have made, that budget was reduced to 14.853 billion, which represents a net savings of 2.044 billion bolivares.

Moreover, we have also achieved success on the domestic market. In fact, from 363,000 barrels per day of liquid hydrocarbons consumed by the country in 1983, this year, there has been a reduction of 29,000 barrels per day, making the consumption 334,000 barrels per day for the first half. And if one considers the economic value of the exporting of those 29,000 barrels of refined products exported, one will realize the positive effect of these savings.

Greater Earnings:

Although the market is depressed, PDVSA's accounts computed both in dollars and bolivares are larger in volume this year than in 1983.

Minister Hernandez Grisanti explains. He says that the larger revenue and, of course, the high earnings calculated for this year, are due to three factors: 1. the modification in exchange which raised the quotation of the dollar from 4.30 to 6 bolivares; 2. the reduction in operational costs; and, 3. the increment achieved in the average prices, based on an improvement of the export package.

The minister adds that all this has made it possible to increase the profits estimated for this year, 1984 (which had originally been calculated at 7 billion bolivares), and which will now be slightly over 15 billion bolivares.

And fiscal revenue, which had been calculated for the entire year (based on the revision last March) at slightly over 59 billion bolivares, will now rise to 64 billion for the year 1984. In other words, the oil industry has achieved yields that had not been anticipated but that, thanks to the effort of a successful management, have reached these highly satisfactory levels.

Following Minister Hernandez Grisanti's address, the president of PDVSA, Brigido Natera, and the vice president, Juan Chacin, provided some data that made it possible to expand on what had been said by the head of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Chacin opened a management notebook filled with statistics, and told the reporters that the earnings accrued by the oil industry during the first half were 8.336 billion bolivares, based on an overall accrued income of 44.1 billion bolivares, 40.3 billion of which came from foreign sales and 3.8 billion from sales on the domestic market.

The revenue or share paid to the National Treasury was 32.064 billion bolivares, and the estimate for the entire year is exactly twice that, in other words, a fiscal share of 64 billion bolivares.

That is to say, the financial results accrued by the oil industry during the first half were highly satisfactory, just as the net result of the oil sales on the markets was. Venezuela was able to serve its customers completely, sending them daily a volume of 1.5 million barrels of crude and by-products. And it expects that, during the second half, the situation will be at least equivalent to that of the first, and that at the close of this year, the overall balance will be positive.

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